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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1966

HUGH BRYANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Director of Welfare Services

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES, 1966

(as at 31st. December)

HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: His Worship The Mayor (Cr.J.Churchman, J.P.)

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Councillor R.J.Ashby, F.S.M.C.

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Alderman Mrs. M.M. Owen
Councillor D.G. Booton
Councillor J.W. Butler
Councillor E.G. Dolton
Councillor W.H.J. Manifold
Councillor J.H. O'Neil
Councillor J. Stokes

Alderman J. Evans
Alderman Mrs. L. Peckover
Councillor Mrs. L. Brettell
Councillor J.D. Davies
Councillor A. Handley
Councillor C.F. Mansell
Councillor E.W. Owen
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Co-opted Members :

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Mr. N. Davies
D. Saklatvala, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
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W.J. Walkden, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P. (London)
Mrs. A. Cross
Mrs. R.M. Powell
Mrs. M.M. Taylor

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(Associated special function Committee of the Health
and Welfare Committee)

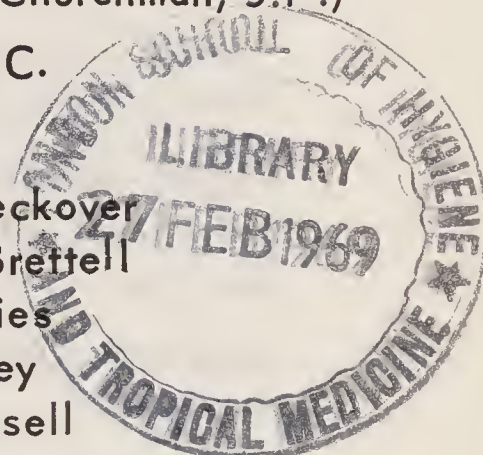
CHAIRMAN: Alderman A.E. Diggett

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Councillor E.W. Owen

His Worship the Mayor (Cr. J. Churchman, J.P.)

Alderman Mrs. L. Peckover
Councillor J.A. Dicken
Councillor J. Stokes

Alderman F.G. Phillips
Councillor C.F. Mansell



PRINCIPAL STAFF

(as at 31st December, 1966)

HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Director of Welfare Services	H.O.M. Bryant M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Director of Welfare Services	Margaret A. Shields, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.
Associate Medical Officer of Health	W.Aulay McLennan, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officers of Health	Esther T. Riley, M.B.,Ch.B. E.K.Morris, M.R.C.S.(Eng.) L.R.C.P.(London) G.J.O'Connor, M.B.,B.Ch., B.A.O.,N.U.I.
Chest Physician (part-time)	C.W.D. Cole, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Principal Assistant (Social Work)	Katherine M. Callaway, A.A.P.S.W.
Principal Welfare Officer	A. Shaw
Senior Administrative Assistant	M.E. Powell, D.P.A.
Principal Nursing Officer	Eleanor A. Roberts, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate
Principal Dental Officer (part-time)	J.B.C. Cuzner, L.D.S. (who is the Principal School Dental Officer)
Chief Chiropodist	Jean Horton, M.Ch.S.
Home Help Organiser	J. Mary Day, M.I.H.H.O.

The Ambulance Officer is the General Manager of the
Corporation Transport Department, Mr. S. Jobling, M. Inst. T.

OUTSIDE ESTABLISHMENTS

(as at 31st December 1965)

HEALTH

Infant Welfare Centres: Boulton Road
Friar Park Road
Whitehall Road
Tanhouse Avenue
Bratt Street
Hill Top
Hill Lane
Jervoise Lane
Redwood Road
Birch Street, Tipton
Central, Tipton
Mesty Croft, Wednesbury
Albert Street, Wednesbury
Chapel Lane, Great Barr

MENTAL HEALTH

Training Centres: Senior – 'The Crest'
 Churchfields,
 West Bromwich.
 Supervisor: Mr. C. Murray

 Junior – 'Glenvale'
 Jervoise Street,
 West Bromwich.
 Supervisor: Miss. D. Blake

Home for Elderly Senile Persons 'Warstone House'
 Salters Lane,
 West Bromwich.
 Chief Male Nurse:
 Mr. L.M.Lopes, S.R.M.N.

WELFARE

Homes for the Elderly:

'Beech Holme' Superintendent and Matron:
53, Beeches Road, Mr. & Mrs. J. Brown.
West Bromwich.

'The Hawthorns'
Green Lane,
Great Barr,
Birmingham.22A.

'Lyndon House'
Scott Street,
West Bromwich.

'Greenside House'
Greenside Way,
Yew Tree Estate,
Walsall.

'The Willows'
34, Bridge Street,
West Bromwich.

66, Clarkes Lane,
West Bromwich.

'Bromford House'
Moor Street,
West Bromwich.

'Kelvedon'
Wood Green Road,
Wednesbury.

'Silver Trees'
Birch Street,
Tipton.

Matron :
Mrs. L. Jenkins

Superintendent and Matron :
Mr. and Mrs. P. Fowler

Superintendent and Matron :
Mr. and Mrs. E. Tunstall

Matron :
Mrs. M.B. Cooper

Matron :
Mrs. E. Pawlett

Matron and Superintendent :
Mr. and Mrs. J.J. McHattie

Matron :
Miss. M. Owen

Matron :
Miss. M. Watson

SOCIAL CENTRE

Walsall Street,
West Bromwich.

Senior Craft Instructor :
Miss. J. Armfield

FIELD CENTRES

Wood Street, Tipton.
20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.
20, Heath Lane, West Bromwich.

FOREWORD

The preparation of this Annual Report has presented some problems because it covers the period for the calendar year 1966, although the Borough was changed considerably by the re-organisation of local government that took place from the 1st April, 1966. The addition of just over 70% more population during the calendar year has made it necessary for the report to cover West Bromwich as formerly constituted for the first quarter of the year, and from 1st. April to cover the enlarged Borough.

It is not possible, therefore, to give figures which relate to the present enlarged Borough covering the whole of the year, nor to separate figures for the added areas for the period January to March 1966, because the areas added to the Borough did not conform exactly to the pre-existing boundaries of local authorities. It is hoped that the text indicates clearly, where appropriate, the period and area to which the various figures refer.

Statistics

The summary of statistics indicate that in matters of life and death the enlarged Borough does not show any marked difference from the former Borough in previous years.

The actual birth-rate is higher than that for England and Wales, as a whole, but after correction to allow for the different age structure of the population of West Bromwich, it is shown that there is a tendency to fewer babies in comparison with the national experience. The rate for stillbirths is higher, but for infant mortality the rate is slightly less than the national figure.

The actual death rate is lower than that for England and Wales, but after allowing for the age structure of the population, the corrected death rate shows a considerable excess over the national rate. There are more deaths in the West Bromwich population, therefore than would be expected from application of the national experience to the population of the Borough. This situation has been the same for a long time and seems primarily due to an excess of deaths from chronic bronchitis in men. There is a subsequently greater number of deaths in men aged 45/65 than in women in common with the national experience, and 70% of all

deaths in this age are now those of men. The most important cause is chronic bronchitis, with cancer of the lung and coronary thrombosis next in importance.

Staffing

Following the amalgamation of areas, it was necessary to recruit a considerable number of staff particularly as there were only a few members of the Staffordshire County Council services available for transfer to the authority. The principal shortages of staff are in regard to doctors and health visitors. The maximum use has been made of part-time medical staff to maintain and continue clinic services, but in the latter half of the year it was not possible to recruit either full or part-time doctors, and two of the five full-time staff (including the Medical Officer of Health and Deputy) in post were over retiring age. The establishment provides for the equivalent of nine doctors in total, and it is difficult unless at least half of these are in full-time employment with the authority. Of the twenty-nine posts in the establishment for health visitors, only thirteen were filled at the end of the year, but to maintain clinic services State Registered Nurses, who did not hold the qualification of health visitor, were employed. Such nurses, however, cannot undertake the full duties of the health visitor and the visiting service, in particular, suffers.

Although the posts of welfare officers were filled, the staff at the end of the year, were still largely unqualified. Partly this is due to the fact that the total output of qualified staff in the country is only just beginning to rise in numbers as more training courses are opened and made available. There were also shortages in respect of chiropodists and dental officers, which have hampered progress, at a time of a need to expand services to cover the added areas.

Health Services

The ante-natal and infant welfare clinics have been well attended and the whole of the Borough is adequately covered by clinic services but, notably in Tipton, there are substantial housing areas which are a distance from the nearest clinic.

The present national policy in relation to clinics favours the establishment of Health Centres with general practitioners rather than clinics for the Local Health Authority alone.

The midwifery service has functioned satisfactorily but with the continued rise in the number of hospital confinements and early discharges it is clear that ultimately there will need to be some consideration as to the proper field of work of the domiciliary midwife and whether or not it would be more appropriate for her to work both in and out of hospital.

The shortage of health visitors has prevented the further attachment of these nurses to general practitioners.

Welfare Services

The welfare services have had a difficult time, for no staff were transferred from Staffordshire and although the new boundaries resulted in two old people's homes being transferred to the Borough, there is still a shortage of places for the population served. Since the Borough is very poorly served with regard to hospital beds for the elderly chronic sick in addition, the shortage of places in old people's homes has caused a serious situation for the elderly sick, their relations and those trying to help them. A start is to be made shortly on a further Old People's Home but until a substantial number of hospital beds with staff exist for this section of the population there will continue to be recurrent crises in relation to the care of persons at home when infirm or sick.

The opening of the new Junior Training Centre "Glenvale" has resulted in the establishment of an excellent service for the mentally subnormal under the age of sixteen years.

Unfortunately no centre was transferred from Staffordshire County Council and therefore the building at Glenvale will need to be enlarged to cater for the enlarged population. The necessity for this was foreseen when the building was designed.

The mentally subnormal over the age of sixteen years now have the complete use of the Training Centre at the Crest but this building is inadequate both in design and capacity and a new Senior Training Centre is therefore needed.

Environmental Hygiene

As usual Mr. Cayton, the Chief Public Health Inspector, has contributed a large section of the report dealing with environmental hygiene.

He has remarked on various aspects of the work, but a few matters seem worthy of further comment.

The problem of tinkers appears to have increased and absorbs considerable effort for very little result.

The systematic treatment of sewers against rat infestation was not achieved in the year. This is basic to the prevention of surface nuisance by these pests.

Slum clearance is proceeding and the emphasis in the foreseeable future will shift to the prevention of slums by the use of Improvement Areas.

The emission of grit from iron foundries presents a difficult problem which needs national research and national standards.

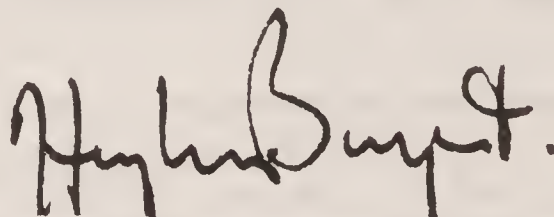
Steady progress has been in relation to the inspection of offices and shops but the number of contraventions of the regulations is still high.

It is pleasant to record an increase in the work undertaken on Food Hygiene. Meat inspection takes a very substantial amount of the time and skill of the service.

Conclusion

The major re-organisation of local government in this area was bound to cause many problems. In retrospect it seems that a number of those have either been sorted out or are in the process of solution with two principal exceptions – the difficulties of recruitment of certain types of trained staff and adequate establishments and buildings for some of the enlarged services.

I must pay tribute to the staff of the department for the enthusiasm they have shown in tackling the problems raised by local government re-organisation. My thanks are due to all those in the department who have assisted in compiling this report, my colleagues in other parts of the National Health Service, to the other Chief Officers and their staff and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Welfare Committee.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hugh Bryant'.

HUGH BRYANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

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PART VI
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
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SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1966

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH

The County Borough of West Bromwich is situated in South Staffordshire and is a manufacturing town principally engaged in foundry work and allied industries. The town is situated in the Midlands conurbation and has a number of residents who originally came from Asian and West Indian Countries.

Elevation above sea level : 347 to 569 feet

Geological formation : Consisting chiefly of shales, red sandstone and magnesium limestones. Coal seams are prevalent in certain areas.

Rainfall (inches) : 33.84

Area in acres (land and inland water) : 11,704

Population per acre : 14.6

New houses constructed including flats 1966:—

To 31.3.66	—	Tipton:	106	
		Wednesbury:	46	
		W.Bromwich:	<u>187</u>	339
From 1.4.66	—	W.Bromwich:		<u>972</u>
Total for 1966:				<u>1,311</u>

Estimated number of houses in the Borough
as at 31st December 1966: 52,023

Rateable Value at the 1st April 1966: £7,684,000

Rate at 1d in the £ estimated to produce at
1st April 1966: £31,700

Vital Statistics

Population (estimated civilian population mid 1966):	171,760
(Census 1961):	96,041
(Sample Census 1966):	170,370

Live Births – to 31.3.66	–	Tipton	196	
		Wednesbury:	150	
		W.Bromwich:	<u>472</u>	818
From 1.4.66	–	W.Bromwich		<u>2315</u>
Total				<u><u>3,133</u></u>
Live Birth Rate (Per 1,000 population):				18.2
Live Birth Rate (Per 1,000 population) corrected				17.1
Comparability Factor				0.94
Illegitimate Live Births – 31.3.66:				
		Tipton:	12	
		Wednesbury:	7	
		W.Bromwich:	<u>39</u>	58
From 1.4.66		W.Bromwich:		<u>140</u>
Total				<u><u>198</u></u>
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births:				6.3
Stillbirths – 31.3.66:				
		Tipton:	5	
		Wednesbury:	3	
		W.Bromwich	<u>4</u>	12
From 1.4.66		W.Bromwich		<u>50</u>
Total				<u><u>62</u></u>
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths)				19.9
Total Live and Stillbirths				3,195
Infant deaths – To 31.3.66:				
		Tipton:	5	
		Wednesbury:	2	
		W.Bromwich:	<u>9</u>	16
From 1.4.66		W.Bromwich:		<u>41</u>
Total				<u><u>57</u></u>
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 Live Births)				18.1
Legitimate infant mortality rate (per 1,000 legitimate births):				19.0
Illegitimate infant mortality rate (per 1,000 illegitimate births):				5.0

Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 Live Births) :	11.1
Early neonatal rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 live babies) :	9.8
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week per 1,000 live and still births) :	29.1
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	2
Maternal mortality rate (including abortion per 1,000 live and still births) :	0.63
Deaths – to 31.3.66 :	
	Tipton : 135
	Wednesbury : 101
	W.Bromwich : <u>329</u> 565
From 1.4.66	W.Bromwich : <u>1221</u>
Total for 1966 :	<u>1,786</u>
Death Rate (Per 1,000 population) :	10.9
Death Rate (corrected 1.41) :	15.3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 population) :	0.12
Cancer death rate (per 1,000 population) :	1.7

England and Wales

Birth Rate :	17.7
Death Rate :	11.7
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 total births) :	15.4
Infant Mortality Rate :	19.0

Name and Address of Medical Officer of Health :

H.O.M. Bryant, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Health Department,
West Bromwich.

Telephone Number : WESt Bromwich 1891 (Home : GREat Barr 5805).

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The following figures show the estimated mid-year population in the Borough for each year since the census in 1951.

1951	87,981 (Census)		
1952	87,640	1959	93,590
1953	87,960	1960	93,780
1954	88,650	1961	96,041 (Census)
1955	89,640	1962	97,050
1956	90,720	1963	97,710
1957	93,050	1964	97,600
1958	93,380	1965	98,040
		1966	171,760

Coloured Population

It is difficult to give figures of the number of coloured persons now resident in West Bromwich. Vital statistics are not compiled giving separate information based on the pigmentation of the skin.

The 1966 sample census report showed that out of the 170,370 persons enumerated in West Bromwich, 6,120 were born outside the British Isles. The majority of these came from the West Indies and Asia.

Births

There were 3,133 live births during the year to residents of West Bromwich giving a birth rate of 18.2 per 1,000 population and the number of births and the birth rate for the last 10 years is shown in the following table. Of the total of 290 births (included in the above) to coloured persons, 271 occurred in hospital and 19 at home.

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population
1956	1,533	16.9
1957	1,697	18.2
1958	1,662	17.8
1959	1,689	17.9
1960	1,692	18.0
1961	1,817	18.9
1962	1,854	19.1
1963	1,891	19.4
1964	1,855	19.0
1965	1,782	18.1
1966	3,133	18.2

There were 1595 boys and 1538 girls born in 1966 and of these 198 were illegitimate births, giving an illegitimate birth rate per 1,000 live births of 63 compared with 58 in 1965.

Stillbirths

The total number of stillbirths to West Bromwich residents was 62 giving a stillbirth rate of 18.4 per 1,000 live and stillbirths compared with 19.6 for 1965. The rate for England and Wales is 19.9.

Deaths

There were 1786 deaths of West Bromwich residents (935 males and 851 females) during the year, 1129 of which occurred in persons aged 65 years and over. This gives a crude death rate per 1,000 population of 10.9. If this is corrected by use of the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General to take account of the age structure of the population in relation to that nationally, the figure is 15.3 compared with 12.0 for 1965.

The following table shows the principal causes of death over the last 10 years :

Summary of the principal causes of death for the
Years 1956 – 1966

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Cancer	160	149	151	173	174	209	154	194	190	169	306
Heart Diseases	229	249	246	247	258	222	282	231	259	298	574
Pneumonia	35	41	41	48	44	56	73	74	98	77	125
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	90	117	97	110	93	116	82	105	88	81	197
Vascular lesions	137	128	111	137	156	119	108	130	138	111	244
Tuberculosis :-											
Pulmonary	15	13	19	15	16	11	11	7	7	6	21
Non-Pulmonary	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—

A particular feature of death rates both locally and nationally is the substantially large number of men in the 45/65 age group compared with women in the same age range. Nearly 2 men die for

every death of a woman in this age group. The predominant causes of death in the men are cancer of the lung and bronchus, coronary thrombosis and bronchitis.

Deaths from Cancer

The following table gives details of the number of deaths, localisation of, and the rate per cent of total cancer deaths for certain specified sites of the body.

	Number of Deaths During		Rate per cent of total cancer deaths	
	1965	1966	1965	1966
Stomach	28	46	16.6	15.0
Lungs & Bronchus	43	86	25.4	28.2
Breast	17	28	10.0	9.2
Uterus	10	9	6.0	2.9
Others	71	137	42.0	44.7
	169	306	100.0	100.0

Deaths from cancer of the lung still cause concern. The following table shows the death rate per 1,000 population from this disease for the last five years.

Cancer of the Lung and bronchus

Year	Death rate per 1,000 population
1961	0.69
1962	0.49
1963	0.48
1964	0.57
1965	0.43
1966	0.50

Deaths from diseases of the respiratory system excluding
Cancer of the Lung

The following table gives the number of deaths in age groups

from diseases of the respiratory system in men and women during the year. The number of deaths of West Bromwich residents from pulmonary tuberculosis was 22 giving a pulmonary tuberculosis death rate of 0.12 per 1,000 population which compares with 0.07 for 1965.

AGE GROUP	Respiratory Tuber- culosis		Influenza		Pneumonia		Bronchitis Other		Diseases of Respiratory System		TOTALS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	1	1	3	4	-	-	2	-	6	5
1-4 years	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	1
5-14 years	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
15-24 years	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
25-34 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2
35-44 years	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	3	3
45-54 years	1	-	2	-	5	3	9	3	-	-	17	6
55-64 years	9	2	2	1	9	3	35	4	5	1	60	11
65-74 years	6	1	1	1	17	12	48	18	6	3	78	35
75 years & over	1	1	1	2	29	32	29	21	4	4	64	60
TOTALS	17	5	8	5	69	56	123	48	17	9	234	123

Certain Causes of Death

It is obvious that cancer of the lung, cancer of the breast, cancer of the stomach, coronary thrombosis and bronchitis between them are responsible for many of the deaths. The latest published figures for England and Wales and for West Bromwich, given as rates per thousand population, are as follows:-

Types of Disease	England and Wales	West Bromwich
Cancer of the Lung	0.56	0.50
Cancer of the breast	0.20	0.16
Cancer of the stomach	0.27	0.26
Coronary disease	2.38	1.68
Bronchitis	0.66	0.99

In comparing these rates, attention should be drawn to the size of England and Wales, compared with the County Borough of West

Bromwich, and to the difference that the operation of chance can make

Infant Mortality

A total of 57 infants whose parents were normally resident in the Borough died during the year. This gives an infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 18.1. The equivalent rate for England and Wales is the same. One illegitimate baby died. Of the total of 57 deaths 5 occurred in coloured babies, a percentage of 8.7.

The following table shows the infant deaths in age groups over the period of the last ten years.

Year	Under 1 month	1 – 3 months	3 – 6 months	6 – 9 months	9 – 12 months	Total	Infant death rate
1956	23	8	3	–	1	35	23
1957	27	3	5	3	3	41	24
1958	18	3	2	–	–	23	14
1959	25	3	2	–	2	32	19
1960	20	6	6	3	1	36	21
1961	38	5	4	1	1	49	27
1962	27	9	8	2	1	47	25
1963	29	6	5	2	3	45	24
1964	22	5	6	2	1	36	19
1965	20	6	5	3	–	34	19
1966	35	7	8	5	2	57	18.1

The following table shows the infant deaths from certain causes during the year:–

Cause of death	Under 1 month	1 – 3 months	3 – 6 months	6 – 9 months	9 – 12 months	Total Under 1 year
Accidents	1	1	1	–	–	3
Influenza	1	1	–	–	–	2
Pneumonia	2	–	3	2	–	7
Congenital malformation	6	1	1	1	–	9
Whooping Cough	1	–	–	–	–	1
Prematurity & other causes	24	3	–	1	–	28
Meningococcal Infections	–	–	–	1	–	1
Other infective & Parasitic diseases	–	1	2	–	1	4
Gastro-enteritis	–	–	1	–	1	2
TOTALS	35	7	8	5	2	57

Deaths Under Four Weeks of Age

There were 35 deaths of infants under 4 weeks, giving a neonatal mortality rate of 11.1 per 1,000 live births compared with 11.2 in 1965. The following table shows the age at which death occurred during the period of the first month.

1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day	5th day	6th day	7th day	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Deaths under 1 month
25	1	2	2	—	2	—	1	1	1	35

Perinatal Mortality

The statistical device of a perinatal mortality rate is aimed at taking into account deaths occurring just before and just after the process of birth in an endeavour to give a total idea of the loss of infant life at about the time of birth. Expressed statistically, it is as follows:—

$$\frac{(\text{Deaths in the first week of life} + \text{stillbirths}) \times 1,000}{\text{Total births (Both live and still)}}$$

The figure for West Bromwich this year is 27.2 compared with 32.3 in 1965. In view of the small number of children involved, infant mortality rates are unreliable and the perinatal death rate may give a better idea of the total wastage of infant life. The figure for England and Wales is 26.3.

To provide a comparison of the various rates involved in the consideration of perinatal mortality the following table gives information for each of the last five years.

Year	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1966	18.1	11.1	19.9	27.2
1965	19.0	11.2	21.4	32.3
1964	19.4	11.9	19.6	30.1
1963	23.8	15.3	19.2	31.6
1962	25.4	14.6	15.9	28.1

Maternal Mortality

Two deaths in pregnancy occurred in 1966.

Suicide

Sixteen deaths were due to suicide which compares with 10 in 1965, The age groups and sex of the persons concerned, together with the methods employed are shown in the following table:—

CAUSE OF DEATH	AGE GROUP					
	15 – 44 years		45 – 64 years		65 years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Hanging	—	—	—	—	1	—
Coal Gas Poisoning	1	1	1	2	2	1
Threw himself under bus	—	—	1	—	—	—
Overdose of drugs	—	—	3	1	—	—
Electrocution in bath	—	—	1	—	—	—
Drowning	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS:	1	1	6	4	3	1

Road Accidents

Twenty three deaths were due to road accidents compared with 13 in 1965. The following table shows the age groups, sex and types of accident:—

TYPES OF ACCIDENT	AGE GROUP							
	0 – 14 years		15–44 years		45–64 years		65 years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Pedestrian struck by Vehicle	1	1	2	—	1	2	1	6
Motor Cyclist collided with railings	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Collision of two vehicles	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Car in collision with traffic lights	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fell backward off stationary bus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Motor cyclist hit falling tree	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS:	2	1	5	—	4	3	1	7

A further 47 deaths have been classified by the Registrar General as due to accident, 34 of which are known to have occurred in the home. Brief details are given in the following tables.

	AGE GROUP							
	0 – 14		15 – 44		45 – 64		65 years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
HOME								
Inhalation of Vomit	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Burns	–	2	–	1	–	–	–	1
Poisoning	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fall	1	–	–	–	1	2	4	17
Overlain in bed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Inhalation of gas	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	3
TOTALS:	1	2	–	1	1	3	5	21

PART 11

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Midwifery

Health Visiting

Home Nursing

Vaccination and Immunisation

Ambulance

Care and After Care

Chiropody

Home Help

Mental Health

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Ante - Natal Clinics

The Authority ran ante-natal clinics, at which post natal examinations were also carried out, at the following centres:-

- West Bromwich – Boulton Road
- Friar Park
- Greets Green
- Hamstead
- Highfields
- Hill Top
- Stone Cross
- Walsall – Yew Tree
- Tipton – Birch Street
- Central, Horseley Road
- Wednesbury – Mesty Croft
- Albert Street

The clinics were staffed by nurses from the local authority and medical officers from the hospital service. There was an average of 32 sessions per month held during the year with an average attendance of 10 patients per session.

Attendances

	1965	1966		
		Jan to March	April to Dec.	<u>Totals</u>
New Bookings	708	199	814	1,013
Return Visits	3,743	965	3,290	4,255
Post-Natal	25	3	10	13

The following table shows the number of mothers attending and attendances made for Mothercraft teaching and relaxation exercises during 1966.

Centre	Institutional Booked	Domiciliary Booked	Persons Attending	Attendances
Hill Top and Highfields	4	63	67	435
Greets Green	—	—	—	—
Boulton Road	2	47	49	232
Friar Park	—	—	—	—
Hamstead	24	26	50	214
Hill Lane	—	—	—	—
Yew Tree and Stone Cross	8	57	65	271
Hallam Hospital *	57	—	57	239
From 1st April, 1966:—				
Birch Street	2	1	3	18
Central, Tipton	35	11	46	265
Mesty Croft	40	15	55	279
Albert Street	—	—	—	—
TOTALS:	172	220	392	1,953

* Mothercraft only

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The following table gives details of the place, day, total sessions and attendances at the centre:-

Place	Day	Total Sessions during the year	Total Attendances during the year.
Boulton Road	Tuesday	48	4,342
	Thursday	52	
Friar Park	Wednesday	52	1,717
Hamstead	Friday	50	3,064
Greets Green	Wednesday	52	2,194
Highfields	Monday	48	4,211
	Thursday	52	
Hill Top	Monday	48	2,530
	Thursday	52	
Hill Lane	Monday	48	3,729
	Tuesday	48	
Stone Cross	Tuesday	48	3,268
	Friday	50	
Yew Tree	Wednesday	52	2,953
	Friday	50	
From 1st April, 1966 :-			
Birch Street	Tuesday	35	5,736
	Thursday	39	
Central, Tipton	Monday	35	3,398
	Thursday	39	
Burnt Tree	Wednesdays (alternate)	19	464
Ocker Hill	Tuesday	35	3,310
	Wednesday	20	
Mesty Croft	Monday	35	6,414
	Wednesday	39	
	Friday	38	
Albert Street	Thursday	39	1,815
Chapel Lane	Thursday	39	1,291
TOTALS:		1,162	50,436

Each centre was staffed by health visitors and a medical officer employed by the authority, and valuable assistance was given at some clinics by voluntary workers.

Vaccination against smallpox and poliomyelitis, together with triple immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus was carried out at the centres.

Further details of the numbers of children attending the centres are given below:—

	First Attendances			Subsequent Attendances		
	1964	1965	1966	1964	1965	1966
Children between 0 — 1 year	1,861	1,789	2,705	22,069	20,970	32,097
Children between 1 — 2 years	24	27	92	4,717	4,259	8,574
Children between 2 — 5 years	23	38	110	3,091	2,482	6,858

Baby Foods

There was a central distribution centre open during office hours each day for the distribution of baby food, orange juice and cod liver oil, and supplies were also available at all infant centres in the Borough.

The following quantities were issued to beneficiaries:—

	1964	1965	1966
National Dried Milk	276	373 tins free	504
	8,081	5,380 tins at 2s. 4d.	6,513
	3,736	3,126 tins at 4s. 0d.	5,103
TOTAL :	<u>12,093</u>	<u>8,879</u>	<u>12,120</u>
Orange Juice	21,190	19,629 bottles at 1s.6d	28,846
	1,918	2,116 bottles free	2,974
TOTAL :	<u>23,108</u>	<u>21,745</u>	<u>31,820</u>

	1964	1965	1966
Cod Liver Oil	1,604	1,478 bottles at 1s.0d.	1,801
	606	655 bottles free	1,034
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL :	2,210	2,133	2,835
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Vitamin Tablets	1,529	1,064 packets at 6d.	1,371
	106	97 packets free	91
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL :	1,635	1,161	1,462
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Free issues are made on production of vouchers obtained through the National Assistance Board.

Issues of National Dried Milk at 2s. 4d. are made on the production of welfare foods vouchers obtained from the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance.

A total of 93,972 items of various proprietary foods was sold giving an income of £11,280. The price in each case was the cost to the Corporation plus 10%, and usually was less than the normal retail price.

DENTAL SERVICE

The Principal School Dental Officer, Mr. Cuzner, reports —

“At the beginning of April 1966, West Bromwich became responsible for the people living in the old towns of Tipton and Wednesbury. The Ministry of Health required us to submit separate reports for 1966, firstly from January until the end of March for the old town and secondly from the beginning of April to the end of 1966 in respect of the new and enlarged town. For the purposes of this report, the total figures of the two mentioned above are considered.

There were no Clinics in operation taken over in either Tipton or Wednesbury and, therefore, the years figures really apply to the town of West Bromwich as it was. A small number of patients have been seen from Tipton and Wednesbury but these are very few and live near to Clinics in the old town of West Bromwich. It is to be hoped that Clinics will be opened and staffed in the new towns as early as possible.

The practice of inspecting three year old children at our Clinics has continued, again with some difficulties owing to illness of dental staff. The mothers who attend on these occasions, to hear the Dental Health Talk and see the Dentist, appreciate this service. The main difficulty is, of course, with the poorer type of mother who will not attend for this purpose.

The amount of work done for the pre-school child has increased appreciably. The figure for examination is nearly double, the figure for fillings has increased by about 70% and fortunately the number of teeth extracted has fallen very considerably.

It appears that many private practitioners are reluctant to treat the pre-school child. Despite our notes to the parents of three year old children, it seems that many people are unaware that the Authority provides treatment for children under school age.

The maternity patient is something of a problem. The mother can only attend Local Authority Clinics for dental treatment after her pregnancy has been confirmed and until her child is one year old. The more sensible type of mother continues dental treatment with her own private practitioner throughout life. The patients

who attend our Clinics normally do so as a result of pressure from the Medical Staff and although they may attend a few times for the relief of pain they are usually unwilling to attend regularly for conservative treatment. Their mouths are ill cared for and the time associated with child bearing, is not a particularly suitable one for them to change their habits. Thus the number of patients in this category treated is not likely to increase. There is, however, a place for this service for treating mothers who move into town and who are unable to make appointments quickly with a private practitioner”.

The following table shows forms of treatment given and the number of mothers and young children provided with dental care during 1966:-

	CHILDREN 0-4 (incl.)	EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS
<hr/>		
Attendances and Treatment		
First Visit	299	43
Subsequent Visits	212	91
Total Visits	511	134
No. of additional courses of treatment other than the first course commenced during year	19	3
Treatments provided during the year:-		
Number of fillings	303	47
Teeth filled	313	43
Teeth extracted	385	146
General Anaesthetics given	213	21
Emergency visits by patients	106	8
Patients X-rayed	2	5
Patients treated by scaling and/or removal of stains	11	17
Teeth otherwise conserved	15	—
Teeth Root filled	—	—
Inlays	—	—
Crowns	—	2
Number of Courses of Treatment completed during the year	192	37
Inspections — No of patients given first inspections during year	466	17
No. of patients who required treatment	215	16
No. of patients who were offered treatment	213	16
Prosthetics — Patients supplied with F.V. or F.L. (1st time)	7	
Patients supplied with other dentures	14	
Number of dentures supplied	22	
Anaesthetics — General Anaesthetics administered by Dental Officers	2	
Sessions — No of Dental Officer Sessions (i.e. equivalent complete half days) devoted to maternity and child welfare patients:		
For treatment	104.9	
For Health Education	2.0	

Babies born with Congenital Defects

Cases of congenital malformations noted at birth have continued to be reported by midwives on birth notification cards which have been suitably printed to accommodate the additional information. The appropriate returns have been made to the Registrar General.

During the year 45 babies were notified and all the returns were scrutinised by a medical officer of the department. If necessary the babies were visited. After the doctors' investigations, 8 babies were not considered to be malformed, leaving a total in the year of 37, two of which were stillborn.

The babies mentioned in the previous paragraph who were born with congenital abnormalities were all entered on the "At Risk Register", which also contains the names of all babies who, on account of family history, illness of the mother during pregnancy, or difficult birth, are considered to be in danger of developing handicapping conditions.

These children are followed-up at regular intervals so that any abnormality of development can be investigated at the earliest opportunity, and arrangements made for the appropriate treatment to be obtained, or for special schooling or training to be given.

Care of Unmarried Mothers

A total of 200 illegitimate births during 1966 representing 6.2% of the total births was recorded in respect of women normally resident in the Borough.

Of these, 64 cases were dealt with by the Moral Welfare Worker of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work, and the Case Worker of the Association reports on the work for the year as follows:-

"Sixty-four mothers who had illegitimate babies in 1966 sought help from the Moral Welfare Worker. In addition twenty-one mothers with illegitimate babies born before 1966, were helped in making plans for the babies. Twenty-one expectant mothers whose babies were due to be born in 1967 have had arrangements made for their confinements. This makes a total of one hundred and six cases requiring help during 1966.

Thirty-three mothers were accommodated in Diocesan Homes and two in own homes, with twenty-nine having had hospital confinements.

Thirteen of the cases concerned married women, one living apart from her husband and seven were legally separated from their husbands.

The ages of the mothers ranged between 14 and 35 and are listed as follows:—

Aged 14-1	Aged 15-5	Aged 16-6	Aged 17-12	Aged 18-12
Aged 19-8	Aged 20-8	Aged 21-3	Aged 22/27-4	
Aged 28/34-4	Aged 35/40-1			

The ages of the putative fathers ranged between 15 and 42; 44 were single men, 13 married men and the details of 7 men are not known.

In the majority of cases the putative fathers have been interviewed with the result that fourteen private maintenance agreements were signed. Five girls married the putative fathers, and one girl is co-habiting with the putative father of her child.

The babies were placed as follows:—

- 3 in care of Local Authority
- 27 with mother at home
- 5 with parents married
- 1 with parents co-habiting
- 21 have been adopted through this Association
- 1 child is with mother in hostel
- 1 baby was stillborn
- 2 privately adopted
- 1 with foster parents
- 2 babies still in Diocesan Home

A total of approximately 700 visits has been made in connection with the 106 cases under care. In addition the homes of the prospective adopters have been visited and reported on, babies visited after they have been placed for adoption, girls conveyed to homes and accompanied when they have had to appear in Court or to have their signatures witnessed when consenting to an Adoption Order being made.

We wish to express our gratitude for the help and advice given

by the Medical Officer of Health and his staff.

11 of the total of 64 cases were dealt with before the 31st March, 1966."

Family Planning

The Secretary of the West Bromwich Branch of the Family Planning Association reports as follows on the work for 1966:-

"With reference to your Annual Report for 1966, I would mention that the administrative changes brought about by re-organisation of the Association commenced in the West Bromwich clinics on the 1st October, 1966, the Inaugural Meeting of the New Branch Executive Committee having been held on 23rd September. The figures that I am submitting in two parts are therefore for the first nine months of last year and the last three months of the year.

For administrative purposes we are now grouped into the West Midlands Branch which comprises clinics at Aldridge, Bilston, Dudley, Oldbury, Smethwick, Tettenhall, Walsall and West Bromwich. The Branch Executive Committee is the policy making body of the Branch and responsible to it is the Clinics Management Sub-Committee which looks after the clinic services. The different clinics are still run by their own clinic committees looking after their day to day affairs. Ours is one of the very few Branches not contained within a county boundary and has the second largest population in the country. It is exceeded only by one of the Greater London Branches. We have found the closer contact with other clinics in the Branch of great value. The administrative changes are designed to enable us to work more closely with the Local Authority and to offer a more comprehensive and improved service to the people within our Branch Area.

	<u>Highfields Clinic</u>	<u>Stone Cross</u>
No. of Sessions held	Up to 1.10.66 - 36	Up to 1.10.66 - 37
	After ,, - 11	After ,, - 18

With reference to Stone Cross we now hold a clinic every Monday night for Pill and Cap patients, every alternate Thursday morning for Pill patients and in October 1966, we started an I.U.D. clinic held on alternate Thursday mornings.

	<u>Highfields Clinic</u>	<u>Stone Cross</u>
No. of new patients	Up to 1.10.66 - 193	Up to 1.10.66 - 163
	After ,, - 39	After ,, - 60

Our figures show that whereas 247 new patients were recommended by their friends and 98 by their doctors, only 14 came through the Local Authority.

Patients have been subsidised at the following rates – for the first nine months of 1966 – £52/17/9 and for the last three months – £24/9/3. This figure does not include a small number of cap patients with five children and over who, as a result of our sliding scale of charges, are not charged the initial registration fee. Short time and redundancy have accounted for the need to subsidise some of these patients.

With our grateful thanks to you and your staff for the help that you have given in making these clinics available to us without charge."

Ultra Violet Light Clinic

The ultra violet light clinics were held on Monday and Thursday afternoons at the Highfields School Clinic and on Monday and Thursday mornings at Central Clinic, Tipton.

The following table gives the number of children receiving artificial sunlight treatment during the year:-

		Number of children on register at 31st December, 1966	Number of attendances during the year
Pre - school children	Boys	—	73
	Girls	2	55
School children	Boys	7	604
	Girls	10	688
TOTALS		19	1,420

Day Nurseries and Child Minders

The Council have no day nursery operating in the Borough and at the end of the year there were three registered child minders.

Visits of inspection were carried out monthly.

This does not appear to represent the total amount of minding of children for reward that occurs in the Borough, but actual proof of other cases is lacking.

MIDWIFERY

Staff

Mothers being confined at home were cared for by 24 midwives and 5 part-time maternity nurses employed by the Council. There is also a non-medical supervisor of midwives.

General Arrangements

There is a rota scheme which enables the midwives to have three weeks out of four free from night calls (apart from exceptional circumstances). On the fourth week those midwives on duty cover the whole of the Borough for night calls, but are free during the day.

The rota provides four midwives each night on "first call" and a further six are on "second call" but are seldom required for duty.

Distribution of Confinements

The following table shows the distribution of births between home and hospital over the last ten years :-

Birth In :-		
	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Home</u>
1956	834	768
1957	1,015	719
1958	1,012	746
1959	930	795
1960	1,019	783
1961	1,081	786
1962	1,127	807
1963	1,206	766
1964	1,170	700
1965	1,184	605
1966	2,257	929

A total of 3569 births occurred in West Bromwich during 1966 of which 3186 were to persons who gave a home address in the town when making arrangements for the confinement. The final number of births registered to permanent residents as published by the Registrar General was 3195.

This year 70% of confinements of West Bromwich mothers occurred in hospital and 30% at home.

Midwives

Number of practising midwives

The midwives who notified their intention to practice were:-

In hospital	27
In Municipal Domiciliary Practice	27

Work of the Municipal Midwives

Municipal midwives attended 938 confinements and of these 9 refer to persons confined in the area, but whose normal place of residence was outside the Borough. Each mother was visited twice daily for the first four days after delivery, and then daily up to the tenth day. Visits made by the midwives are summarised as follows:-

	1964	1965	1966
Ante-natal visits	4,347	4,384	7,338
Nursing visits during the puerperium and post-natal period (including early discharges from hospital).	13,768	14,868	18,284
	<u>18,115</u>	<u>19,252</u>	<u>25,622</u>

Early Discharge from Hospital

A total of 1,685 mothers who were delivered in hospitals were discharged home before the 10th day to be attended by domiciliary midwives. Of these 250 were discharged on or by the 2nd day and 412 on or by the 5th day. Considerable additional work is placed on the municipal midwives by the fact that 1,387 mothers (82%) were discharged from the hospital on or by the 7th day.

Maternal Mortality

There were two deaths of West Bromwich residents attributable to pregnancy during 1966.

Training in Domiciliary Midwifery

Three pupil midwives received training during the year in West Bromwich for the second part of the certificate of the Central Midwives Board. Three of the midwives are specially approved by the Central Midwives Board, as teaching midwives.

Post Certificate Education of Midwives

Each midwife must attend a refresher course approved by the Royal College of Midwives every five years and three West Bromwich midwives attended courses during 1966.

Cases of Potential Difficulty

Certain special categories of expectant mothers should, wherever possible, have their babies in hospital for medical reasons. The following figures representing such cases confined at home during 1966 show that this ideal is far from reached. The figures for hospital confinements of these special categories are also given:-

	Home	Hospital
1. Primipara over 30 years of age	10	52
2. Multipara over 40 years of age	5	47
3. Women in their fourth or subsequent pregnancy	142	360

The domestic problems of women having their fourth or subsequent pregnancy are often so considerable as to militate against delivery in hospital. The Home Help Service does not meet all the needs of such mothers and its use can be quite expensive in such cases.

HEALTH VISITING

Staff

At the end of December, 1966, the staff consisted of the Principal Nursing Officer, Deputy Principal Nursing Officer and 13 out of an establishment of 29 Health Visitors (which includes 5 group advisors). 14½ school nurses are employed in place of Health Visitors but their activity is limited to work in schools and clinics.

Health Visitors perform joint duties, working both as school nurses and as Health Visitors. Approximately 35% of their time is given to the School Health Service.

General Arrangements

The County Borough is divided into three areas, with Senior Health Visitors attached to each area working under the general supervision of the Principal Nursing Officer. Within these three areas each Health Visitor has her own District and carries out the visiting of infants and young children up to the age of five and also visits to any members of the family depending on the need. There is close liaison with the hospital for the following-up of children.

An arrangement exists with the Consultant Physician in charge of wards for the chronic sick, in West Bromwich only, whereby he, together with the Principal Nursing Officer, visits the homes of elderly persons awaiting admission so that an assessment can be made both of the medical and social urgency in an endeavour to use the beds to the best advantage, and deploy the domiciliary services effectively.

Home Visits

The Health Visitors' time is divided between work in clinics and home visits. Details of the latter over the last five years are as follows :-

Analysis of Home Visits	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966		Total
					1st Qr	2-4 Qrs	
First visit to births	1,886	1,859	1,670	1,540	455	2,512	2,967
Re-visits to children under 12 months	3,830	4,116	3,828	3,634	540	4,536	5,076
Re-visits to children 1-5 years	7,114	7,389	7,070	6,557	1,324	11,433	12,757
Visits to cases of infectious diseases	21	21	73	15	8	7	15
Visit to expectant mothers	95	234	251	117	23	333	356
Miscellaneous	860	938	1,183	769	201	1,450	1,651
B.C.G. Vaccinations	1	1	4	7		3	3
TOTALS:	13,807	14,558	14,079	12,639	2,551	20,274	22,825

During 1966, a total of 3780 visits that were made were fruitless because there was nobody at home. It is difficult to reduce this number. Visits by appointment are difficult to arrange because of the fluctuating calls for the Health Visitors.

At the end of December the Health Visitors' case load of children under the age of five years was 8,674.

Diabetic Clinic

A Health Visitor attended the diabetic clinic held in the West Bromwich District Hospital and was responsible for liaison with the physician and helping to see that the patients were able to carry out the instructions given them concerning diet.

Liaison with Other Agencies

Work with General Practitioners:—

One Health Visitor has been attached to a general practice

Work with Hospitals:—

The Principal Nursing Officer works closely with the Consultant Physician having charge of the geriatric beds in West Bromwich, accompanying him on his domiciliary visit to help by arranging for care at home. Her deputy attends the paediatric department and one Health Visitor also attends the diabetic clinic.

The limiting factor is the shortage of health visitors (at present 50% under establishment), with adequate and suitable staff, time could be found to pursue the opportunities of joint working within the National Health Service to the benefit of the patients.

HOME NURSING

Staff

The following staff were employed at the end of the year:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Principal Nursing Officer	—	1
Supervisor of District Nurses	—	1
State Registered Nurses:Full time	4	18

General Arrangements

The District Nurses work under the supervision of the Principal Nursing Officer and the Superintendent of Health Visitors and District Nurses (who is also Deputy Principal Nursing Officer) who allocate and organise their duties. Requests for nursing assistance are made by general practitioners to the Principal Nursing Officer and arrangements are also made for the continuation of treatment after a patient's discharge from hospital. The nurses carry out the instructions of the family doctors regarding treatment. Evening calls are covered by a rota of nurses.

Cases Nursed

The following table shows the average number of nurses employed, the number of visits and the number of new cases over, each of the past five years:-

Year	Average number of nurses employed	Number of new cases	Total Number of Visits
1961	11½	822	30,359
1962	12	772	30,169
1963	13	782	30,957
1964	13	708	31,890
1965	13	726	36,155
1966	23	1213	60,392

Of the 1502 patients nursed during 1966, 1264 were referred by general practitioners, 3 by the Chest Clinic, 227 by hospitals and 8 were transferred from another area.

The work carried out month by month was as follows:-

	Number of patients being nursed at the beginning of month	New Cases	Number of patients being nursed at the end of month	Nursing visits
January	289	82	287	3019
February	287	73	285	2898
March	285	59	282	3160
April	452	144	482	5738
May	482	98	488	6213
June	488	104	484	5800
July	484	87	476	5748
August	476	88	464	5548
September	464	115	486	5357
October	486	111	493	5931
November	493	125	496	5697
December	496	127	490	5283

Training of District Nurses

This was suspended for the year 1966/67, due to the pressure of work involved in the Boundaries changes and assimilation of additional staff but it is hoped that this will be resumed in 1967.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The recommended timetable for immunisation and vaccination of infants is now as follows:—

2 – 4 months	Three injections, against whooping cough diphtheria and tetanus at monthly intervals.
7 – 9 months	Oral vaccination against poliomyelitis – 3 doses
12 months – 2 years	Vaccination against smallpox
18 – 20 months	One booster injection against whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus

Only disposable syringes are used in the Local Authority Services.

Vaccination against Smallpox

Vaccination of infants against smallpox is carried out at the infant welfare centres and by general practitioners. The number of primary vaccinations in children under five years of age is shown in the following table:—

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1 year	1 year	2 – 4 years	5 – 14 years	Total
Number vaccinated (primary)	51	970	372	200	1593
Number re-vaccinated	2	26	30	6	64

A total of 1002 persons over 15 years of age was vaccinated or re-vaccinated. The following table shows the acceptance for children under the age of five years compared with the estimated population in that age group:—

Year	Number Vaccinated	Estimated Population
1966	1393	14,080
1965	678	8,000
1964	677	8,000
1963	330	8,000
1962	1968	8,000
1961	450	7,849 (Census)

The greatly increased figure for 1962 was due to the occurrence of a case of smallpox in the town and a number of cases elsewhere in the country, and the increase in 1966 was due to the need of evidence of recent vaccination for intending travellers abroad. This need arose because of a few mild cases of smallpox in England.

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is freely available to all children at the local authority clinics and from family doctors.

A total of 2,371 infants was given protection against diphtheria during the year and a total of 2,758 reinforcement injections was given to school children. The corresponding figures for 1965 were 1,067 and 1,686 respectively.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

The following table shows the number of persons who were vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year:-

Primary Immunisation

AGE GROUP	No. of persons who have received third dose of oral vaccine
0 – 1	543
1 – 2	1,243
2 – 15	524
Others	21
TOTALS:	2,331

Number of persons given a reinforcing dose or oral vaccine after primary immunisations with salk or oral vaccine – 2,802.

The foregoing immunisation figures show an unsatisfactory state of affairs with considerable room for improvement. With a staff of health visitors well below establishment improvement will be difficult to achieve. The usual methods of publicity have been used, but individual visits are necessary to persuade some parents

B.C.G. Vaccination

B.C.G. vaccination continued to be offered to children in the former borough of West Bromwich who reached the age of 13 years, and vaccination was re-offered to all children aged 15 years who had not received it previously. Children residing in the added areas of the new borough which had formerly been part of Staffordshire, had been given B.C.G. vaccination at 11 years of age and were not included in the West Bromwich scheme in 1966. The figures given, therefore, refer only to the former borough of West Bromwich.

Of 1,633 children eligible 1,311 (80%) accepted. Of these 1,204 received the skin test, and 1,066 were given B.C.G. vaccination. No complications of vaccination occurred.

87 children had positive (Mantoux) skin tests, i.e., they had already come into contact with tuberculosis infection and had developed some resistance to it. This gives a positive skin test rate of 7.2% which is lower than the rates for last year.

The following figures show the positive skin test rates for the last five years :-

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Positive skin test rate	8.6%	7.1%	7.1%	8.4%	7.6%	7.2%

The children who had positive mantoux tests were given appointments for chest x-ray and investigation by the chest Physician at the Chest Clinic. As a result two children are still under observation but neither of these have been notified as cases of tuberculosis.

No cases of tuberculosis were discovered amongst immediate contacts of any of these Mantoux-positive children.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

General Arrangements

The service is administered by the Corporation's Transport Department on behalf of the Health Committee.

Reorganisation of the service due to the adjustment of the Borough Boundaries by the West Midlands Order issued by the Minister of Health and Local Government took place and came into operation on 1st April, 1966.

The new County Borough of West Bromwich included parts of the former Boroughs of Tipton and Wednesbury which were previously served by the Staffordshire County Ambulance Service.

Control was established at the existing West Bromwich Ambulance Service Station on a 24-hour basis and the Tipton Station, formerly operated by Staffordshire County Council, placed on a 16-hour cover.

Operational staff employed by the County Ambulance Service were absorbed and some of the vehicles transferred to the new Authority.

Mileage and patient statistics are related to the periods prior to and after the reorganisation.

The establishment of the enlarged service provides for the following staff:-

Superintendent	1	
Shift Leaders	8	
Deputy Shift Leaders	5	
Driver/attendants	34	
Clerk/Telephonists	2	Total <u>50</u>

Ambulances

Four dual purpose and three sitting case vehicles were transferred from the Staffordshire County Council Ambulance Service.

An order has been placed with Messrs. Appleyard's of Leeds, for one dual purpose ambulance complete with Automatic Roll-in Trolley Stretcher.

Staff

Three drivers were sent on special training course.

Vehicles in Service

	Placed in Service	Transferred from Staffordshire C.C.	Mileage		
			1.1.66 31.3.66	1.4.66 31.12.66	Total
Daimler	25.5.56		7	115	122
Morris	1.7.57		2,270	8,179	10,449
Morris	8.7.58		2,152	9,129	11,281
Morris	18.7.62		4,324	10,510	14,834
Morris	7.9.62		3,800	10,577	14,377
Morris	23.4.63		2,674	8,349	11,023
Austin	16.11.64		5,436	17,769	23,205
Austin	20.2.65		3,739	8,252	11,991
Austin	6.10.65		4,201	13,498	17,699
Bedford	21.6.61	1.4.66		12,886	12,886
Bedford	26.6.61	1.4.66		12,122	12,122
Bedford	1.10.61	1.4.66		12,072	12,072
Bedford	20.3.62	1.4.66		11,298	11,298
Bedford	5.4.62	1.4.66		11,110	11,110
Bedford	5.4.62	1.4.66		13,393	13,393
Bedford	19.4.62	1.4.66		14,094	14,094
Total			28,603	173,353	201,956
Sitting Case Car				4,950	4,950
Grand Total			28,603	178,303	206,906

Work Done

The figures below show the use of the service over the last 10 years :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Patients</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
1957	21,580	87,608
1958	23,383	85,914
1959	23,712	88,580
1960	23,896	85,733
1961	27,283	96,518
1962	29,165	96,601
1963	31,464	108,834
1964	35,320	117,389
1965	31,852	114,222
1966 1.1.66-31.3.66	8,306	28,603
1966 1.4.66-31.12.66	<u>43,346</u> <u>51,652</u>	<u>178,303</u> <u>206,906</u>

The following table shows the number of outpatients carried to hospital for treatment. It will be seen that the greater proportion of patients carried are those for routine treatment or examination and much of ambulance work is purely transport of passengers.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Out-Patients</u>
1957	15,062
1958	17,189
1959	17,598
1960	17,339
1961	20,615
1962	22,605
1963	23,746
1964	28,398
1965	25,243
1966 (1.1.66 31.3.66)	6,560
1966 (1.4.66 31.12.66)	34,044
	40,604

Supply of Oxygen

The arrangements for the supply of oxygen in an emergency to patients in their own homes, at the request of the family doctor, continued to operate. An oxygen set supplied through arrangements made by the Local Executive Council is immediately available at the depot.

Major Accidents

A scheme provides for immediate nursing and medical help and equipment from hospital within a few minutes and in conjunction with the police, fire and hospital authorities for control of the accident, ambulance directions and use of hospital beds.

Emergency Catastrophe Procedure is being reviewed to cover the whole area of the West Midlands Police Authority.

CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Convalescence

Patients are sent for convalescence on the recommendation of their own doctors and hospital consultants. They contribute towards the cost according to their means. Altogether 63 applications were investigated, 38 of these subsequently accepted arrangements that could be made for them. Some of the 25 non-acceptances were due to the fact that a charge is made dependent upon income, but 2 paid to a fund, 4 were too ill to travel, 1 needed nursing care, 1 made own arrangements, 1 was not eligible and 1 unfortunately died before arrangements were completed.

A total of 38 patients received recuperative holidays under the authority's scheme and most of the patients were accommodated in homes by the sea.

In addition to convalescent home fees, travelling expenses were paid in respect of 38 patients.

Recommendations

These were made as follows:—

By General Practitioners	38
By Hospital Physicians and Surgeons	—
	<hr/>
	38
	<hr/>

Age Group of Patients

The 38 patients were of the following age groups:—

Under 21 years	1
21 to 44 years	3
45 to 64 years	17
65 years and over	17
	<hr/>
	38
	<hr/>

PROVISION OF NURSING EQUIPMENT

Loan Equipment

Stocks of nursing equipment for use in patients homes are held at the nurses' centres. These articles are lent on the recommendation of a general practitioner, midwife or district nurse.

The following types of equipment were available for use during the year:-

Air rings	Bed wedges
Back rests	Feeding cups
Bed cradles	Head poles and chains
Bed pans	Housechairs
Bedstead (special)	Matresses and covers
Commode chairs	Nocturnal Enuresis alarms
Crutches	Ripple bed
Urinals	Spinal carriage
Waterproof sheets	Spinal supports
Walking sticks	Sputum cups (disposable)
Walking aids	Wheelchairs
	Fracture boards

No charge is made for the use of the equipment, but each borrower is required to sign an agreement to return the items loaned within three months and in good condition. The loan period can be extended by signing a further agreement. There was a period in which the demand for wheel chairs exceeded the supply. Further chairs have since been obtained.

INCONTINENCE PAD SERVICE

The Council authorises the free issue of incontinence pads as part of their arrangements for the care of patients in their own homes. Pads are freely available and are issued upon the advice of a doctor or nurse.

These pads have been a normal item of equipment used by the Home Nurses for some years and it has been found that the greater majority of patients in need of the pads are in fact attended by the Home Nursing Service and, therefore, received them in this way. Consequently there has only been a small demand (seven patients) for pads provided separately than through the Nursing Services. Disposal of pads has not presented a special problem. The variety used are composed entirely of paper (some patterns have a waterproof outer covering) and burn in domestic fires of various kinds. In some cases outside incineration is resorted to, and in the modern blocks of flats provided by the Council electric incinerators are installed.

CHIROPODY SERVICE

This service is directly provided by the Council and is restricted to certain categories which are shown below with the charges made for treatment.

	Clinic Treatment	Home Treatment
Aged, Handicapped, Blind Persons	2s. 6d.	4s. 0d.
Expectant Mothers	5s. 0d.	7s. 6d.

An appointment system is operated, a full-time chiropodist works 10 sessions per week and is assisted by three part-time chiropodists who provide 13 sessions per week.

The demand for Chiropody treatment was as great as anticipated, especially in the Tipton area, and this put a greater burden on the staff which was available. However, since the employment of a full-time Chiropodist the situation has eased a little, but the service is inadequate to meet the known need. Apart from this, there are many old people who need chiropody but do not apply for it.

The following table shows the number of treatments given:—

	Clinic		Domiciliary		Residential Accommodation	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
January to March	97	541	40	366	25	58
April to December	433	2,260	256	1,456	202	410
TOTALS – 1966	530	2,801	296	1,822	227	468

This grand total of 6,144 treatments is 1,684 more than in 1965, but does not represent the full need. It seems probable that a considerable number of elderly persons have defects of the feet requiring chiropody, but are not aware of the facilities and the value of treatment.

The present service, however, is as much as the staff can provide.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Staff

The Home Help Service at the end of the year employed 145 part-time staff, making an equivalent of approximately 94 in terms of full-time staff.

General Arrangements

Home Helps are available to meet the needs of those residents of the town who for various reasons are unable, either temporarily or permanently, to manage their own housework and who need help at home to make life bearable.

The service is one for which a charge is made, based on the financial position of the family and the hours of service given.

The number of patients helped over the previous ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year	Maternity	Aged and Chronic Sick
1957	54	293
1958	40	323
1959	45	365
1960	72	382
1961	58	420
1962	53	422
1963	30	426
1964	34	468
1965	42	520
1966	21 (2)	895 (379)

Figures in brackets relate to 1st quarter and are included in the total.

During the year a total of 313 new patients was given help for the first time and of these 194 were chronic sick, 22 maternity and 1 case of tuberculosis.

The position over the last ten years is shown in the following table:—

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Confinements at home	44	40	44	69	46	49	27	30	35	21
Other maternity cases	10	—	1	3	12	4	3	4	7	2
Aged and chronic sick	293	323	365	380	420	422	426	468	520	895
Tuberculosis	8	10	7	7	8	6	9	10	8	7
Problem families	4	6	8	9	8	10	8	3	—	1
Mental Health	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	7	8	3
Other - including acute illness	38	42	47	56	57	49	60	55	53	133
Totals :	397	421	472	524	551	540	539	577	631	1062

Of 442 cases attended during the 1st quarter of the year, 50 paid full cost and 392 part cost, and of 1020 cases attended during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters, 96 paid full cost and 58 part cost, and the remaining 866 received free service, including free cases transferred from the Tipton and Wednesbury areas (Staffordshire County Council), mainly old age pensioners.

Of the 442 cases attended during the 1st quarter, 42 were completed during the quarter, therefore the total number of cases during the year was 1,062 (1,020 plus 42).

Night Attendance Service

This service is designed to provide attendance at night for cases of illness and emergency when other arrangements cannot be made. It is, therefore, only used for urgent need and is not a large and extensive service.

During the first quarter of the year one person was willing to do this work and dealt with one case for the following reason:-

Chronic Sick: Terminal illness	1
Acute illness.	—

During the remainder of the year one additional person was available (who was normally a Home Help) and together during this period they dealt with seven cases for the following reasons:-

Chronic Sick: Terminal illness	5
Acute illness	2

As the case attended in the first quarter continued into the later period, the total cases for 1966 was 7, for the following reasons :-

Chronic Sick: Terminal illness	5
Acute illness	2

MENTAL HEALTH

General Arrangements

A Local Health Authority is responsible for providing social services for mentally disordered persons.

The provisions available to patients, not in hospital, include training centres for the mentally subnormal, accommodation for elderly mentally disordered persons and general social help from the Mental Welfare Officers. These services are closely associated with the hospital and general medical services.

The Health and Welfare Committee is the responsible committee and the Medical Officer of Health and his staff undertake the functions.

Prior to 1st April, 1966, there were 5 mental welfare officers and a mental health officer dealing with the subnormal. No staff and no establishments were transferred from Staffordshire County Council on the reorganisation of Local Government. At the end of the year there were 7 Mental Welfare Officers, two engaged on work with the subnormal.

Mental Illness

Prior to 1st April, 1966, patients were generally admitted to All Saints Hospital, Birmingham. After that date however, patients from Tipton continued to go to St. George's Hospital, Stafford, and patients from the added area at Great Barr to Lichfield. This meant dealing with three mental hospitals, two at a considerable distance. The Regional Hospital Board, however, has recently revised the arrangements, so that All Saints Hospital is the main admitting centre. During 1966, however, the service was dealing with three hospitals.

Patients with mental disorder can be admitted to hospital without formality and it is only necessary to use authority for detention in about half the cases. This can only be exercised on medical recommendation and for specified periods of time. There is provision for appeal to an independent tribunal.

In 1966, 332 patients living in the Borough were known to be admitted informally and in 116 cases powers of detention were used.

In view of the change in boundaries comparison with former years are perhaps invalid, but in 1965 the figures for the former Borough were 238 and 78 respectively.

During 1966, eleven persons who lived outside the Borough were admitted from the Borough, and this gives a total of admissions known to the department of 459, with 122 under compulsory powers.

The hospital authorities, in the light of the patient's condition, take steps to either discharge, help on a voluntary basis or extend the period of compulsory detention.

Of the admissions of residents of the borough, 65 were for total periods of up to 72 hours, 33 for up to 28 days and 18 for longer (up to 1 year in the first instance).

A total of 41 of the 65 admitted to periods of up to 72 hours remained voluntary for treatment at the end of the period of compulsion.

At the end of the year, a total of 213 persons from the borough were known to be in-patients in mental hospitals.

"All Saints" Hospital has a most successful "day hospital" and patients who cannot travel by public transport are taken daily by ambulance.

Old Age and Mental Illness

A total of 90 persons over 60 years of age are known to have been admitted from the borough to mental hospitals in 1966, and in 10 cases compulsory powers were used.

Residential Accommodation for the Elderly Mentally Disordered.

Warstone House, with 27 beds, was opened in 1963 for this type of patient. These are elderly persons with mental (and often also physical) deterioration, not requiring treatment, but beyond management at home or in a normal old persons home.

The following table shows the admissions and transfers. Most residents stay until death, but some deteriorate to the point at which hospital care is necessary.

Admissions Transfers Readmission Discharges Deaths

From/To All Saints	6	4	2	—	—
From/To General Hospital	—	3	1	—	—
From/To Part III	3	—	—	—	—
Of Temporary nature	3	—	—	3	—
From/To Own Home	4	—	—	—	—
At Warstone House	—	—	—	—	9

During the year the Red Cross Society have arranged regular visiting and an outing.

Two patients were admitted for a temporary period; one to relieve relatives and one from an old persons home to spend time with his wife who was a resident. He decided to return to the old persons home after a short stay.

Work in the Community

At the end of the year 2,057 mentally ill persons were known to the staff and receiving visits or help. A considerable amount of visiting is done to provide information on social background for the hospitals.

A club for the mentally ill with a membership of about 70 and a weekly attendance of approximately 35 meets once a week in the Walsall Street Social Centre.

Relationship with the Hospitals

One of the pleasing features is the close liaison with All Saints Hospital. Meetings are held with the medical staff and the Mental Welfare Officers in attendance. The Medical Director advises on the admission of patients to Warstone House and general matters relating to the service.

Mental Subnormality

Additions to the Register

The following table shows the sources of the 41 new cases added to the register during 1966:—

	Severely Subnormal				Subnormal			
	Under 16		Over 16		Under 16		Over 16	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Notified by West Bromwich Education Authority Section 57 (3) of Education Act.	10	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers from other Local Authorities	2	2	2	1	1	—	2	2
Court	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hospital	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
General Practitioner	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Mental Welfare	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Medical staff	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—

Of the 14 cases notified by the Local Education Authority (10 boys and 4 girls) 8 boys and 3 girls were admitted to the Junior Training Centre, 1 boy to the Special Care Unit attached to the Centre, and one boy is on the waiting list for admission. One girl is cared for at home but it is hoped to admit her to the Special Care Unit in the near future. Of the remaining 27 patients 4 are in regular employment, one had left the area, one was admitted to hospital for training, 15 have been admitted to the Training Centres, and 6 are visited at home.

Hospital Care

During 1966, 28 patients were admitted to hospital or private homes, 6 informally, 3 under Section 26 of the Mental Health Act, 1959, and 19 for periods of short-term care.

At the end of the year 244 persons from West Bromwich were receiving care and training in various hospitals and homes as subnormal, severely subnormal or psychopathic persons.

The following table gives the details:—

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Subnormal	23	17	40
Severely Subnormal	97	106	203
Psychopathic disorder	1	—	1
	<u>121</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>244</u>

Of these, 212 are under no compulsion to remain in hospital and 32 are subject to compulsory detention.

Care in the Community

A total of 719 persons are continuing to receive friendly visits from the Mental Health Social Workers.

Details are as follows:—

	<u>Under 16</u>		<u>Over 16</u>	
	M	F	M	F
Friendly Visiting:—				
Severely Subnormal	105	85	126	127
Subnormal	11	6	121	138

Clinic for the Mentally Subnormal

Arrangements were continued during the year for a consultant psychiatrist to attend a Local Authority Clinic to provide advice and help on the subnormal patient.

Fifty-two patients attended 12 sessions held during the year and only one failed to keep the appointment.

TRAINING CENTRES

"The Crest"

"The Crest" Training Centre provided facilities for both Junior and Senior sub-normal persons notified to the Local Health Authority as unsuitable for education in school and for mentally handicapped adults to receive both training and occupation suitable to their abilities.

As the "Glenvale" Junior Centre was opened in April, 1966, the Juniors attending "The Crest" were transferred, and the following records the attendance at "The Crest", which continued as a centre for seniors only and shows an increase in attendances towards the end of the year:—

	Jan. to Mar.		Apr/Sep	Oct/Dec	Total
	Junior	Seniors	Seniors	Seniors	Seniors
No. of Days Open	57	64	92	54	210
Attendances	1,880	1,380	2,673	2,042	6,095
Average daily attendances	32.9	21.5	28.6	37.8	29.0
Number on register 31st December, 1966:			Males	23	
			Females	25	

The composition of the staff at the 31st December was:—

1 Supervisor (Male - appointed 1.3.66)

3 Instructors

1 General Assistant

2 Domestics

There are four mixed classes with an instructor for each class.

Mr. Murray, the Supervisor, comments:—

"The holiday at Colwyn Bay was enjoyed by all and a day at Rhyl, going to and fro on the railway, was one of the highlights. There was a hike to Llandudno and this was enjoyed by those capable of walking.

An "Open Day" was held in December, together with an evening film show, which showed the activities of the children whilst on holiday and this was well supported by parents.

Laundering is now carried out at the Centre and looked forward to by the girls.

A large scale cookery lesson is also held for a mixed class and is a great success – the parents provide the ingredients and the products are taken home.

Those with a sense of money values are taken shopping by bus to purchase articles for their parents, who of course provide the money.

When weather permits the children are taken on walks and a visit to the Social Centre was enjoyed very much.

Wrought iron has now been included in our outwork and can be done by lower grades.

To enable the staff to get some ideas of outwork being executed on a full scale, two visits were paid to the Walsall Centre".

"Glenvale"

The "Glenvale" Junior Training Centre was brought into use during April, and was officially opened on the 19th July by His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J. Churchman, J.P.), and the parents were invited to look round the Centre on the following day.

The following table shows the trend of attendances during the year :—

	April – June		July – Sept.		Oct. – Dec.	
	Junior	Special Care	Junior	Special Care	Junior	Special Care
Days Open	45	5	36	51	53	53
Attendances	1738	1247	1247	294	2340	636
Average daily attendances	30.4	2.2	34.6	5.7	44.1	12.0
Number on register 31st December, 1966 :				Males	31	10
				Females	29	2

The composition of the staff at 31st December, was :—

1 Supervisor
4 Assistant Supervisors
1 Nurse — S.R.N.
1 Nursery Nurse
2 General Assistants
1 Caretaker
1 Dinner Assistant

Miss Blake, the Supervisor, comments —

“A holiday at Colwyn Bay was provided and spread over two weeks as last year, with seniors and juniors in separate parties. This was a happy holiday, with good weather, and was provided in association with the West Bromwich Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

A Carol Service was held on the 13th December, when the children sang and played the carols on the percussion band.

Eight children were taken over the local gas works and enjoyed their visit.

The boys went to the “Albion” ground and watched the team training.

The children have been swimming every week since May and this proved very successful — one boy who could swim took his Junior Badge, and one girl has learnt to swim and has swum the length of the bath. We have three children now able to swim $\frac{3}{4}$ of the width. When they first went the children had no confidence but now they move about freely in the water.

Members of the staff of a local hairdressing shop come along to the Centre fairly often and give their services free, and the parents find this service very useful as it is a problem when they have to take their children to the hairdressers.

PART 111

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Incidence and Mortality

Tuberculosis

Venereal Disease

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Incidence

There were 635 cases of notifiable disease (other than tuberculosis) notified or otherwise ascertained during the year.

The following table shows the number of notifications received during each of the last ten years :—

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	
										Jan-Mar	Apr-Dec
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	109	7	5	26	3	3	7	1	25	22	4
Acute encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	2	2	—	—	3	—	2	—	1	1
Measles	1855	227	923	223	1160	188	807	330	541	45	391
Meningococcal Infection	2	1	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	2	3
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	2	3	2	3
Pneumonia	34	12	29	17	18	3	5	—	3	2	1
Poliomyelitis :—											
Paralytic	5	—	3	4	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	1	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	4	—	3	4	2	—	1	1	1	2	2
Scarlet Fever	17	41	70	64	27	17	14	7	43	10	54
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	176	25	27	167	15	5	147	15	55	12	77
Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	46	2	4	23	1	—	1	—	1	—	1

Deaths from Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the deaths attributable wholly or in part to infectious diseases during the last ten years :—

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery & Gastro enteritis	—	4	5	7	4	4	7	2	1	1
Acute infective encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1
Meningococcal infections	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	2	5	6	8	8	4	9	4	1	4

Dysentery

Twenty-six cases of dysentery were notified during the year. The illness was mild in character and there was no general spread of infection. During the year a number of specimens were taken from persons with symptoms but negative results were obtained.

Gastro Enteritis

One death occurred in a female child aged ten months.

Measles

A total of 436 cases of measles was notified compared with 541 in the previous year and 330 cases in 1964. Measles was prevalent in alternate years but there has been a tendency for the extent of this variation to diminish in recent years. There was one death in 1966.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Only five cases were notified. The disease was mild and recovery uneventful and complete.

Pneumonia

Three cases of pneumonia were notified but obviously this cannot be taken to indicate the prevalence of pneumonia in the town because the only forms of pneumonia notifiable are acute primary and influenza. Broncho-pneumonia (which is common) is not a notifiable disease.

Poliomyelitis

No cases were notified during 1966 and this is the fifth year in succession free from this infection.

Scarlet Fever

Sixty-four cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year. Scarlet fever still continues to be a mild disease and notification is likely to be incomplete.

Whooping Cough

A total of 89 cases of whooping cough was notified.

It is most probable that this is a substantial under-estimate of the prevalence of the disease in the Borough as notification is likely to be incomplete. There was one death from this disease.

Smallpox

No cases occurred during 1966.

Meningococcal Meningitis

One child died from Meningococcal Septicaemia (under 1 year of age).

TUBERCULOSIS

Dr C.W.D. Cole, the Consultant Chest Physician, who advises on the prevention of this disease, reports as follows:—

“1966 brought many changes in the Chest Clinic “set up” in that from the 1st April the new enlarged County Borough of West Bromwich came into being. For the sake of convenience I propose to divide the year into two parts. The first part being from the 1st January 1966 until the 31st March 1966. For this period of the year there were no changes from previous years. A total of 13 patients was notified as suffering from all forms of Tuberculosis, (who resided the old West Bromwich). Of these patients 1 Indian man and 5 local men were notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and there were no notifications for women. One Indian woman was notified as suffering from tuberculous cervical adenitis; 4 locally born children were notified as suffering from primary tuberculosis and all were picked up from contact examination of adult notified cases. In addition two men (both elderly) were notified posthumously as having died from pulmonary tuberculosis. It seems tragic that in 1966 in an area abundantly provided with Hospitals and Chest Clinics patients should still die of a preventable and curable condition of this nature.

For the last three quarters of the year the County Borough was enlarged to its present form. The anti-tuberculosis “set up” now is as follows: There are three Chest Clinics available to the citizens of the new County Borough. The West Bromwich Chest Clinic which tends to deal with the eastern portion of the Borough and also to undertake the care of patients who are diagnosed in the Hallam Hospital and the West Bromwich & District General Hospital. This Clinic tends to admit its patients to Heath Lane Hospital, West Bromwich. Occasionally it will admit a tuberculous diabetic to the special unit specifically designed for such patients at Romsley Hill Sanatorium, Halesowen. Most of the patients in the western portion of the Borough are seen at the Wednesbury Chest Clinic, where the Chest Physician is Dr. M. Sheldon. This clinic tends to admit its patients to Prestwood Hospital which is about 4 miles from Kingswinford and where patients from Wednesbury have been admitted in the past. This Hospital provides a fully Diagnostic and Curative regimen and has adequate access

to surgical facilities if required. It is beautifully situated and apart from the distance involved the patients who go there are fortunate indeed. The south-western portion of the Borough is served by the Dudley Chest Clinic which, like Wednesbury, sends its patients to Prestwood. The boundaries between these three Chest Clinic catchment areas have always been rather nebulous and remain flexible to this day. This is an ideal situation and operates very much in favour of the patient in that he or she can attend a clinic that is easiest to get to. Public transport communications within the Borough are good and thus no patient need find difficulty in attending the clinic of his choice.

Not surprisingly it has been found that the approach of the three clinics to the problems of prevention, care and after care of tuberculosis and other chest conditions have varied somewhat from Clinic to Clinic. What has been surprising perhaps, have been the great similarities between these establishments and there is probably very little material difference to be appreciated by the patient. All three clinics operate an efficient and widely ranging contact pick-up and examination service. All three clinics operate the same follow-up of patients discharged from Hospitals and all three clinics have access to the Welfare facilities offered by the County Borough of West Bromwich in its enlarged form and to the facilities of the West Bromwich Voluntary After Care Committees. There has not been enough time since the new Borough was established to draw any reliable data statistically from the figures available to me. It would appear however, that the newer parts of the Borough have a very similar pattern of incidence for tuberculosis as had the old Borough. The newer parts appear to share the problem of tuberculosis in immigrants.

For the last nine months a total of 51 cases of newly discovered tuberculosis were notified in the enlarged county borough. Of these 25 men, 11 women and 2 children were found to be suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and a further 7 men, 4 women and 2 children suffered from non-pulmonary forms of the same disease. It is certain that there has been some overlapping of notifications and some omissions of notification. For example both Hallam Hospital and the West Bromwich & District General Hospital have provided a number of notifications but I have not received a single notification from any other near-by Hospital.

It is unlikely that there were no cases of tuberculosis residing in the new County Borough of West Bromwich diagnosed in neighbouring Hospitals. However, the figures given are the only ones available and probably came fairly near the true incidence. The immigrants from Asia and particularly the continent of India continue to give rise to numbers of cases of tuberculosis out of all proportion to the gross total of persons from these areas residing in the Borough, thus 11 of the men with Pulmonary Tuberculosis came from the continent of India and 1 from Trinidad; 2 of the women with Pulmonary Tuberculosis were Pakistanis and 1 of the 2 children notified as suffering from this complaint was a Jamaican. 3 of the 7 men suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were Pakistanis as was one of the four women.

The number of persons dying from Tuberculosis during 1966 known to this Clinic totalled 19, 12 men and 7 women. However, these figures may well not be complete and I have no knowledge of any deaths occurring in the old Boroughs of Wednesbury and Tipton prior to the 1st April, 1966. A brief analysis of the deaths known to me however, show that 3 men and 1 woman died prior to the diagnosis being established. Of the remainder, 6 men were patients who had sustained advanced disease many years ago and all of whom have survived 10 years or more. The same was true of 2 of the women. Whilst it is not possible to draw firm conclusions from the figures quoted above my impression is that the mortality from tuberculosis continues to fall, and there is no need for a patient suffering from early or even moderately advanced disease to die if he seeks advice and co-operates in the treatment.

With the falling numbers of tuberculous patients attending the Chest Clinics as new cases or for follow-up the Clinics are finding the time to devote a larger part of their energies to non tuberculous chest conditions. The number of new cases of Pneumoconiosis attending the West Bromwich Chest Clinic remains much the same in spite of improvements in Industrial hygiene in the local foundries. The pattern of this illness has, like that of tuberculosis, changed for the better in the past few years. Previously these patients died of Pneumonia or super-added tuberculosis but with the advent of the newer anti-biotics these super added infections no longer prove the killers that they were and the outlook for the Pneumoconiotic is correspondingly brighter. Chronic Bronchitis is a pervading illness in this area. It is every bit as lethal

a disease as Cancer of the lung although it takes longer to achieve its full purpose. These patients are being seen in large numbers both as outpatients and as inpatients in the local Hospitals. There is no shadow of doubt that heavy cigarette smoking over a period of years is a contributory factor to the establishment of this condition. It may also be true that environment plays a not inconsiderable part.

Cancer of the lung continues to rise in incidence locally. At the West Bromwich Chest Clinic never a week goes by that 1 or 2 new cases of Carcinoma of the lung attend as out-patients. Like the Chronic Bronchitic heavy and prolonged cigarette smoking plays a very great part in the causation of this disease. Likewise air pollution and even some industrial hazards can sometimes be incriminated.

I would like to complete this report by expressing my grateful thanks to all those within the Hospital service and the Health Department who have been so helpful during the year. I would also like to thank the West Bromwich After Care Committee and the local Assistance Board Officers for their help during 1966.

And finally, I would like to make an earnest appeal to every father and mother to discourage their children from taking up and becoming addicted to the habit of cigarette smoking. I would point out that by not smoking themselves they might well save the lives of their children many years hence. There is no shadow of doubt about it that the cigarette taken in excess has killed, is killing and will kill many men and women unnecessarily and the most urgent problem facing Chest Clinics in the future is not tuberculosis but Chronic Bronchitis and Cancer of the lung"

I am grateful to Dr. Cole, and also to Dr. Sheldon at Wednesbury and Dr. McDonald at Dudley for the close co-operation that exists between their departments and the Health Department in relation to the preventive care and aftercare of tuberculosis.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Details of the new cases of venereal disease in West Bromwich residents treated during 1966 at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, are given below together with figures for 5 previous years :—

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Syphilis	21	9	8	7	6	7
Gonorrhoea	71	56	45	49	37	67
Conditions other than venereal	202	79	98	63	75	145
	294	144	151	119	118	219

The rise is largely as the result of the increased population following local government re-organisation.

This does not necessarily represent the full extent of venereal disease as patients treated elsewhere than at hospital clinics (e.g. by their own doctors) are not known to this department.

PART IV
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Health Education
Rehousing on Medical Grounds
Medical Examinations
Nursing Homes
Home Safety
Co-ordination of Services dealing
with Child Neglect
Cost of the Services

HEALTH EDUCATION

Leaflets, posters and pamphlets are available in the Health Department and in Clinics. Education of the individual takes place at Infant Welfare Centres by the Nursing Staff working there. No specific staff are employed for the purposes of Health Education or its organisation.

Posters showing details for treatment of venereal disease were exhibited in public lavatories. No specified Health Education on the subjects of Smoking and Lung Cancer was carried out apart from posters and advice to individuals by members of the staff in the course of their normal duties.

In general, therefore, apart from personal advice very little Health Education has been carried out.

REHOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

The allocation of medical points to those applicants for corporation tenancies who submitted medical evidence of illness in their immediate family was continued.

Prior to April 1st, 50 applications were received from the West Bromwich area, 7 of which received 10 points, 33 received 5 points or less, and 10 were considered to have no grounds for medical points.

From the time of the amalgamation to the end of the year a total of 453 applications were received from the whole of the new Borough. Of these, 196 came from the old West Bromwich, 217 from Tipton and 40 from Wednesbury. No cases received the maximum award of 25 points, but 2 cases received 15 points, 24 cases received 10 points and 362 cases received between 3 and 10 points. In 65 cases no points were awarded.

Applications concerning tuberculosis were forwarded to the appropriate chest physician, and points were awarded in 5 cases. Where an award of points is not sufficient to secure a tenancy for a family in which there is infectious tuberculosis, an urgent recommendation may be made direct to the Housing Committee.

Recommendations to the Housing Committee are also made by the Medical Officer of Health in exceptional cases of serious illness which do not qualify for a corporation tenancy even with the maximum award of medical points.

Apart from the medical points forms, letters from general practitioners and consultants continued to arrive at the Housing and Health Departments, asking for transfers for corporation tenants, or special types of accommodation for families being rehoused under slum clearance.

These were considered at weekly conferences between senior housing officers and senior medical staff. These weekly meetings have proved so helpful that they have become the main means of communication between the two departments and have ensured very close co-operation. The information given by the housing representatives about the circumstances of each case, when considered in conjunction with the doctors' letters have enabled decisions to be made in the majority of cases without further investigation. Where necessary, however, visits have been made by medical officers, health visitors and public health inspectors, and reports furnished by mental welfare officers and social welfare officers concerned with the elderly and the handicapped.

Prior to April 1st, 49 cases were considered and 38 medical recommendations were made. After the amalgamation, 202 West Bromwich cases, 82 Tipton cases and 27 Wednesbury cases were considered and out of the total 311 cases, 244 medical recommendations were made.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Children's Department

The Medical Staff of the Health Department are responsible for the routine medical examination of children in the care of the Local Authority. They do not, however, provide treatment for those who are ill. This is done by general practitioners. Medical Officers see these children prior to admission and just before discharge. They also pay regular visits to the Charlemon Nursery and Reception Home and visit the Family Group Homes.

Altogether 171 medical examinations were carried out and these can be classified as follows:—

	Reception Home	Nursery	Family Group Homes
Number of children examined on admission	28	4	28
Number of children examined for boarding out	2	4	7
Number of children examined on discharge	12	10	18
Number of routine examinations			
0 – 1 year	—	7	—
1 – 5 years	—	13	—
over 5 years	16	3	19

Corporation Staff

The medical staff advise on the medical fitness of staff before appointment and for the purpose of the sickness and accident scheme.

Newly appointed staff are not subject to a medical examination if they complete satisfactorily a declaration form relating to their past illnesses. Those involved in occupations dealing with young children, food, medical, nursing and dental services are subject to a satisfactory x-ray before appointment.

The work done during 1966 was as follows:—

Examination before appointment

A total of 423 officers completed satisfactory declarations of health and were accepted without medical examination.

Medical examinations	59
Accepted	58
Deferred for re-examination	1

Examination for Sickness and Accident Scheme

A total of 319 servants completed satisfactorily declarations of health and were accepted without medical examination.

Medical examinations	145
Accepted	137
Deferred for re-examination	9
Failed	8

Examination of applicants for admission to training college or for employment as teachers.

Medical examinations	162
Accepted	162

The value of this work is in my view doubtful, for most of those employed do not need a high standard of fitness to undertake their work.

The need for medical enquiries is unfortunate for officers with extensive Local Government Service coming from other authorities who possess defects which may lead to breakdown in future years, but do not at the time interfere with their employment. Such officers have difficulty in being accepted because of the individual arrangements of each Authority.

NURSING HOMES

The last remaining Nursing Home in the Borough closed during 1965.

HOME SAFETY

Very little education was carried out on Home Safety as a formal activity. Health Visitors (well below strength) constantly drew attention to the risks in relation to inadequate fireguards or heating apparatus, particularly in houses in multiple occupation. There are no staff specifically employed to undertake duties in connection with the education of the public in matters of Home Safety, but the Accident Prevention Officer does give assistance from time to time.

CO-ORDINATION OF SERVICES DEALING WITH THE PREVENTION OF CHILD NEGLECT

The regular meetings of officers to co-ordinate these services were not fully reconstituted, after the amalgamation of Boroughs, until the end of the year.

The Borough is for this purpose, divided into three areas, based on the "Field Centres" which house the nursing and social work staff of the Health, Welfare, Childrens' and Education Services.

A monthly meeting in each centre is now established with the local officers of the central government agencies and voluntary associations concerned. These are under the leadership of the Principal Assistant (Social work).

A quarterly meeting of the heads of departments concerned, under the Chairmanship of the Medical Officer of Health, deals with general arrangements for co-ordination between departments.

At these meetings the following were represented:—

- Principal Nursing Officer
- The Children's Officer
- Director of Education
- The Family Case Worker
- Housing Manager
- Inspector of the National Society for the prevention
of Cruelty to children.
- The Probation Officer
- Town Clerk's Department
- Mental Health Officers
- Superintendent of the West Bramwich Division
of the Constabulary.
- The Ministry of Social Security

A case conference was also held monthly consisting of the Deputy Housing Manager, the Family Case Worker, N.S.P.C.C. Inspector and the Deputy Children's Officer, with of course other officers in attendance if necessary, depending on the cases discussed. These officers met to discuss in detail cases referred to them by the main meeting. By this means it was possible to take a limited number of families and spend considerably more time in discussing the complicated problems and determining the best ways in which they could be helped.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Water supplies to the Borough are provided by two water under-takings. The City of Birmingham provide water supplies to part of the Great Barr and Hamstead areas and this supply contains added fluorides. Supplies to the remainder of the Borough are provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company which serves an extensive area of the south part of the West Midlands. These supplies are not fluoridated.

COST OF THE SERVICES

The cost of the services provided under the National Health Service Act, the National Assistance Act and other health services during the year, is shown compared with the cost of the previous ten years in the following table:—

	Local Health Services		Welfare Service		Other Health Services (Refuse Collection Prevention of Disease etc.)	
	National Health Service Act 1946.		National Assistance Act, 1948			
Financial Year	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop
1953/54	61,911	703	24,479	278	71,418	811
1954/55	64,525	724	28,781	323	70,082	787
1955 '56	69,931	777	32,298	359	84,079	934
1956 '57	81,294	893	36,823	404	91,861	1,009
1957 58	86,862	931	46,559	500	98,772	1,062
1958 '59	97,514	1,037	52,212	555	100,880	1,073
1959 60	112,088	1,192	60,692	645	111,371	1,184
1960 '61	119,374	1,256	67,040	705	112,426	1,184
1961/62	133,722	1,376	81,383	839	131,033	1,350
1962/63	149,218	1,522	94,345	962	132,552	1,352
1963/64	173,791	1,779	105,325	1,078	147,664	1,511
1964/65	200,327	2,052	112,657	1,154	183,206	1,877
1965/66	220,383	2,248	140,042	1,428	216,202	2,205

PART V

WELFARE SERVICES

Care of the Aged

Care of the Handicapped

Other Welfare Services

WELFARE SERVICES

General Arrangements

The Authority's functions in this field under the National Assistance Act, 1948 are discharged through the Health and Welfare Committee. The administration is under the direction of the Director of Welfare Services who is also the Medical Officer of Health.

The staff excluding those at residential establishments and cleaning staff at the Social Centre at the 31st March, 1966 consisted of:—

- 1 Chief Welfare Services Officer
- 1 Senior Social Welfare Officer
- 4 Social Welfare Officers
- 4 Welfare Assistants
- 1 Home Teacher for the Blind
- 1 Trainee Home Teacher for the Blind
- 1 Senior Craft Instructor
- 1 Occupational Therapist
- 3 Craft Instructors
- 1 Warden – Social Centre

Due to the amalgamation of Wednesbury and Tipton to form the enlarged County Borough of West Bromwich the staff at the 31st December, 1966 consisted of:—

- 1 Principal Welfare Officer
- 1 Deputy Principal Welfare Officer
- 2 Senior Social Welfare Officers
- 6 Social Welfare Officers
- 6 Welfare Assistants
- 2 Home Teachers for the Blind
- 1 Senior Occupational Therapist
- 1 Occupational Therapist
- 6 Craft Instructors
- 1 Warden – Social Centre

No staff (except those in residential establishments) was transferred from Staffordshire County Council.

The duties relating to the deaf were carried out by the agency of the Church mission to the Deaf, Walsall, acting on behalf of the Corporation, including the enlarged County Borough.

The services for the blind in the Tipton and Wednesbury areas were continued on an agency basis, by the Walsall, Wednesbury and District Society for the Blind and the Wolverhampton, Dudley and District Institute for the Blind.

Care of the Aged

In June, 1964, it was estimated that there were some 8,400 persons in the Borough over the age of 65 years. The sample census 1966 gives a figure of 15,760 for the enlarged borough.

On the 31st March, 1966 the department had a record of some 928 persons who for some reasons had come to notice and this increased to 1389 at 31st December, 1966. Not all persons over 65 have need of special services and the difficulty is finding those who do.

Welfare Services

In general a local authority has powers to provide only a few services for the elderly. There is a duty to provide accommodation for those in special need and arrangements for meals and recreation are permissive. For both of these services charges can be made, and in respect of accommodation national regulations exist with regard to minimum charges.

Local Authorities may assist voluntary bodies providing meals and recreational facilities for the elderly by grants of money, equipment, or use of premises and vehicles (including drivers and caretakers).

Residential Accommodation

Accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act (1948) is provided directly by the Corporation at:—

“The Hawthorns”, Green Lane, Great Barr.

for 21 elderly ladies.

"Beech Holme", Beeches Road, West Bromwich.

for 20 elderly men.

"Lyndon House", Scott Street, West Bromwich.

for 31 elderly persons
(either sex)

"Greenside House", Greenside Way, Yew Tree Estate.

for 42 elderly persons
(either sex)

"The Willows", 34, Bridge Street, West Bromwich.

for 10 elderly men

66, Clarkes Lane, West Bromwich.

for 10 elderly ladies

"Bromford House", Moor Street, West Bromwich.

for 52 elderly persons
(either sex)

From the 1st April, 1966 the following 2 homes in the added areas :—

"Kelvedon", Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.

for 21 elderly persons
(either sex)

"Silver Trees", Birch Street, Tipton.

for 48 elderly persons
(either sex)

There are three blocks of elderly persons' flatlets provided by the Housing Committee. Each accommodates 22 persons and has a resident warden provided by the Welfare Committee.

They are :—

"Newport House", Monmouth Drive, West Bromwich.

"Sandfield House", Walsall Road, West Bromwich.

"Bramley House", Redwood Road, Yew Tree Estate.

From the 1st April, 1966 "Queslade", situated at Great Barr in the added area became available for approximately 38 persons. This is a development comprising 12 x 1 -bedroomed flats for 2 people 8-bedsitter units in a converted house, and 6 small bungalows for single persons.

At the end of 1966 the number of residents in Part III Accommodation was as follows:—

	Men	Women	In Hospital	
			M	F
"The Hawthorns"	—	18	—	5
"Beech Holme"	20	—	2	—
"Lyndon House"	8	21	1	3
"Greenside House"	18	23	4	2
"The Willows"	9	—	2	1
66, Clarkes Lane.	—	10	—	—
"Bromford House"	23	30	4	3
x "Kelvedon "	7	14	—	—
x "Silver Trees"	18	28	2	4
	103	144	15	18

x — Included from 1-4-66.

The general position at the end of the year was that 255 beds were provided for old persons (this is the extent of the provision made by the Welfare Committee and excludes the provision made by the Health Committee for the elderly mentally disordered). The waiting list at the 31st March, 1966 consisted of 10 males and 17 females, and at the 31st December, 1966 there were 13 males and 33 females on the list.

The homes are intended to be run with regard for the individual resident. Visiting is not restricted and free change of doctor permitted. Hairdressing and chiropody are provided. Birthday cards, Christmas cards and presents etc., are sent to each resident and the Christmas festivities include a party held at the Social Centre. Throughout the rest of the year a number of outings, films and live shows are made available for those who wish to participate. Extra comforts (sweets, tobacco and beer) are issued.

Holidays for residents of the homes are arranged directly by the Welfare Committee and in September, 59 went to 4 Guest Houses in Paignton.

In addition to the persons in the Council's own homes, others are maintained in local authority or voluntary homes elsewhere, usually because they have established ties with other areas or the homes provide special facilities. Up to 31st March, 1966 these were as follows:—

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Hampton Grange, Hereford	1	—
Highbury Hall, Birmingham	—	1
The Poplars, Wolverhampton	—	1
Beech Croft, Smethwick	—	1
Tate House, Harrogate	1	—
New Morton, Hastings	1	—
Aigburth, Leicester	1	—
St. Joseph's Convent, Wolverhampton	—	1
Priceholme, Scarborough	—	2
Botton Hall, Danby	1	—

At the end of the year the position was as follows:—

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Hampton Grange, Hereford	1	—
St. Joseph's Convent, Wolverhampton	—	3
Chalfont Colony	—	1
Priceholme, Scarborough	—	2
J. Loyes College, Exeter	—	1
David Lewis Colony	1	—
Broadway House, Bushbury	1	—
Hampton Grange, Hereford	1	—
Tate House, Harrogate	1	—
Botton Hall, Danby	1	—
Cheshire Foundation Home, Wolverhampton	1	—
Aigburth, Leicester	1	—

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Stoke Park Colony	1	—
Maghull Home for Epileptics	1	—
Ivy House, Cannock	2	3
Dibdale, Sedgley	—	3
Warstones House, Wolverhampton	—	1
Fernleigh, Stafford	—	2
Poplars, Wolverhampton	—	2
New Bradley Hall, Kingswinford	1	2
Lightwoods, Cheadle, Stafford	—	1
Westhope, Stafford	—	1
Bartonland Home for the Blind	1	1
Nearfield House, Lichfield	—	1
Claremont House, Wolverhampton	i	—
S. Edithas, Tamworth	1	—
The Limes, Aldridge	1	—
The Viewlands, Wolverhampton	2	—
New Morton S. Leonards	1	—

Finance

The full cost to the Corporation per resident in directly maintained homes was estimated at £9/9/0 per week at the 31st. December, 1966 and 169 residents without private means were paying the minimum charge of £3/4/0 per week. 19 were paying a proportion of the charge whilst 59 were paying the full cost. Each resident received a minimum of 16/- per week pocket money.

The following table gives information about the number of admissions and discharges from 1st January to 31st March, 1966.

	Bromford	Greenside	Lyndon	Hawthorns	Beech Holme	Clarks Lane	Willows
No. of beds	52	42	32	21	20	10	10
No. of admissions	11	3	1	3	7	—	5
No. of re-admissions from hospitals	5	—	—	1	1	—	—
* No. of discharges	1	2	—	1	3	—	2
No. of deaths	3	3	—	3	4	1	1
% of beds occupied	94.4	97.8	90.2	70.1	89.6	80.0	78.5

* — Discharge includes admissions to Hospital for long term care.

The number of admissions and discharges from 1st April, 1966 to 31st December, 1966 was as follows:—

	Bromford House	Greenside House	Lyndon House	Hawthorns	Beech Holme	Clarkes Lane	Willows	Kelvedon	Silver Trees
No. of beds	52	42	31	21	20	10	10	21	48
No. of admissions	15	19	11	15	8	10	9	3	12
No. of re-admissions from hospital	9	4	4	6	—	—	1	—	4
* No. of Discharges	7	7	6	9	1	7	9	2	8
No. of deaths	8	13	3	4	4	1	1	1	5
% of beds occupied	97.7	96.2	90.8	81.8	97.7	95.6	86.6	96.9	97.3

* — Discharges include admissions to hospitals for long term care.

A total of 25.8% of all admissions was to ground floor beds. The sex proportion was 41.7% males and 58.3% females. The average age was 77 and the average length of stay was 29 months excluding temporary admissions.

Staffing

There was little change in the senior staff of the homes.

Voluntary Organisations

The West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee is active with 10 'Over 60' Clubs in the Borough. The Womens Royal Voluntary Service now have 3 Darby and Joan Clubs – two of which have been opened during the year. From the 1st April, 1966, the Wednesbury Old People's Welfare Committee have 8 over 60 Clubs and the Tipton Co-ordinating Committee for the Care of the Elderly includes 6 Over 60 Clubs.

Meals on Wheels

The Womens Royal Voluntary Service continued this service and delivered an average of 136 per week to 31st March, 1966. At the end of the year a further 64 meals per week were delivered in the Wednesbury area, and 24 in the Great Barr area. In November, 1966 the service was extended to the Tipton area where 36 meals per week were delivered.

For the financial year ended 31st March, 1966 the Corporation made a grant of £66/4/0 to the service. The meals were purchased from the Civic Restaurant at 2/2d each and the cost to the recipient was 1/0d. The meals for the Tipton area were purchased from 2 Works Canteens at a cost of 2/6d each.

The number of meals supplied during the year rose to 11,266 an increase of 3,626 over the previous year's figures.

Sons of Rest

There were eight such homes in the Borough at the 31st March, 1966 and men over the age of 65 not in full employment may apply for membership. Each home organises its own affairs.

On 6th December, 1966 a new home was opened at the new Hateley Heath Social Centre and there were two homes in the Tipton area and one in the Wednesbury area which are included in the following figures.

Membership

	Number on Register	Days Open Per Week	Average Weekly Attendance
Dartmouth Park	82	5	300
Friar Park	45	4	120
Hamstead	32	4	80
Eli Fletcher	72	5	300
Oakwood Park	60	5	200
Eliza Corbett	70	5	200
Kenrick Park	30	5	100
Farley Park	74	5	250
Hateley Heath	18	3	18
* Homestead	75	5	350
* Home Lea	80	5	350
* Wednesbury	86	5	300
	724	51	2368

* – Include from 1st April, 1967.

There was a slight increase in membership although the average weekly attendance remains much the same.

All the Homes were again active during the year, and competed for trophies in Dominoes, Snooker and Crib leagues.

The usual outings, annual dinners, birthday parties, carol services and the annual get-together were again very much enjoyed and appreciated.

Care of the Blind

The number of registered blind persons in the Borough in age groups, is as follows:—

	1	5 - 10	11-15	16-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	65-69	70-79	80-84	85-89	90 +	Total
Male	1	1	—	1	6	7	16	25	11	10	18	15	8	3	122
Female	—	—	1	2	2	3	3	13	10	14	37	29	13	5	132
Total	1	1	1	3	8	10	19	38	21	24	55	44	21	8	254

This gives a total of 254 registered blind persons including from 1st April, 1966. 85 from the Tipton area and 58 from the Wednesbury area.

7 men and 9 women died during the year and 7 men and 18 women were certified blind. The following table shows the age and sex distribution of those certified:—

	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 79	80 - 84	85- 89	Total
Male	1	—	—	1	—	—	3	2	7
Female	—	1	1	1	2	10	2	1	18
Total	1	1	1	2	2	10	5	3	25

The services relating to the extended area were continued on an agency basis — Tipton cases dealt with by Wolverhampton, Dudley, District Institute for the Blind, and Wednesbury by the Walsall, Wednesbury and District Society for the Blind.

Residential Care

At the end of the year there were 8 blind persons in homes for the elderly and four in homes run by other agencies.

Employment

At 31st March, 1966 the following were employed in the workshops in the City of Birmingham:—

- 1 – Fitter and Assembler
- 1 – Miscellaneous Worker
- 2 – Brush Makers
- 1 – Boot and shoe repairer
- 1 – Piano Tuner
- 1 – Knitter

There were two people in the home workers scheme:—

- 1 – Basket Maker
- 1 – Salesman

and 9 blind people were known to be employed in open industry:—

- 1 – Proprietor (Haulage)
- 1 – Craft Instructor
- 2 – Gardeners
- 1 – Storekeeper
- 1 – Typist
- 2 – Machine Tool Operators
- 1 – Labourer

At the end of the year the following were employed in the Special Workshops for the blind:—

- 1 – Fitter and Assembler
- 2 – Miscellaneous Workers
- 7 – Brush Makers
- 1 – Boot and shoe repairer
- 1 – Piano Tuner
- 1 – Shop Assistant
- 1 – Knitter
- 3 – Basket Makers

There were four people in the home workers scheme :—

- 1 – Basket Maker
- 1 – Salesman
- 1 – Carpenter
- 1 – Shopkeeper

and 21 Blind People were known to be employed in open industry :—

- 2 – Teachers, Craft Instructors
- 1 – Social Welfare Worker
- 1 – Proprietor (Haulage)
- 1 – Typist
- 1 – Shop Assistant
- 2 – Gardeners
- 4 – Machine Tool Operators
- 1 – Fitter and Assembler
- 2 – Storekeepers
- 5 – Labourers
- 1 – Miscellaneous Worker

	Mentally Ill	Mentally Sub-Normal	Physically Defective	Deaf Without Speech	Deaf With Speech	Hard of Hearing	Mentally Ill and Physically Defective	Physically Defective and Hard of Hearing	TOTAL
Male	2	4	14	2	3	9	—	—	34
Female	1	8	7	—	4	5	1	2	28
TOTAL	3	12	21	2	7	14	1	2	62

Partially Sighted Register

The total number of partially sighted persons registered in West Bromwich at 31st March, 1966 was 37, and at 31st December, 1966 – the total (including 10 from the Wednesbury area and 5 from Tipton area) was 52.

The following table shows age and sex distribution. This does not represent the total number of the partially sighted:--

Years	5 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 49	50 - 64	65 & Over	TOTAL
Male	6	2	1	5	9	23
Female	7	1	2	3	16	29
Total	13	3	3	8	25	52

Visiting

A total of 1,097 visits was made to blind and partially sighted persons in their own homes during the year.

Teaching in the Home

During the year 1 man was taught Braille in the home and is now proficient in reading and writing.

Only a few handicraft lessons were given in the home as most of the people interested were able to attend the Social Centres.

Training and Employment

No one has attended a course for training during the year, though 2 applications had been submitted to the Ministry of Labour at the end of the year. There were no new cases of employment.

Holidays

This year the blind again went to four guest houses in Paignton, a total of 34 blind, 30 guides, 9 children and 2 staff attended the holiday.

Guide Dogs

One person was trained with a guide dog during the year.

Talking Books

Two people received talking books during the year.

Wireless

Wireless services with the Birmingham Royal Institute for Blind have continued to work very satisfactorily throughout the year.

Social Activities

Each Tuesday a social gathering was held at the Social Centre. On Thursdays a group (average 23 persons) meet for craft work. Transport is provided.

Summer Trip

On 8th July, 1967 s summer trip was arranged to the Wye Valley. It was attended by 48 blind, 40 guides, 4 children and 2 staff.

Christmas Party

On Thursday 22nd December, 1966 the Annual Christmas Party for the blind was held at the Social Centre. It was a great success and was attended by 50 blind and 43 guides.

Large Print Books

The Public Library has available for loan a number of books with specially large print suitable for partially sighted or elderly persons.

Welfare of the Deaf and Dumb

The welfare of the deaf and dumb has been provided as in previous years by the Church Mission to the Deaf and Dumb, Walsall, under the Missioner.

The number of deaf registered in West Bromwich at the 31st March, 1966 was as follows:—

Classification	Male	Female	Total
Deaf without Speech	11	1	12
Deaf with Speech	13	15	28
Hard of Hearing	4	10	14
Total	28	26	54

The number of deaf registered at 31st December, 1966 including the Wednesbury and Tipton areas was as follows:-

Classification	Male	Female	Total
Deaf without Speech	38	35	73
Deaf with Speech	21	12	33
Hard of Hearing	8	12	20
Total	67	59	126

The weekly social club is held at the Social Centre, and the Mission for the Deaf, Walsall, is utilized by the West Bromwich deaf for religious services and some social activities. Other activities include football, cricket matches and a week's holidays. The Christmas Party was held at the Social Centre on 17th December, 1966 at which approximately 40 deaf or hard or hearing persons attended.

Several outings were arranged during the year and the West Bromwich people were included.

Physically Handicapped

At the 31st March, 1966 the number of persons physically handicapped in West Bromwich was 624. On the 31st December, 1966 the total was 804 which included Wednesbury and Tipton areas.

Physically Handicapped are grouped into a total of five groups. These are defined as follows:-

- Group A.** Physically Handicapped persons (other than children) who though possibly needing training for some occupations are capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions.
- Group B.** Physically Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions but who are mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops.
- Group C.** Physically Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary industrial

conditions and who are insufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops, but who are capable of work at home.

Group D. Physically Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work or not available for work.

Group E. Physically Handicapped persons who are school children under the age of 16 years and whose needs are likely to be met under the enactments, but for whom the local authority has general responsibility under section 29 of the act.

The numbers in each group at the end of 1966 were as follows :-

Group	Total 31-12-65	Additions 1966	Total	Deaths	Moved out of area	Other Removals	Part III	Total	Total 1966
A	120	19	139	2	5	—	—	7	132
B	17	11	28	—	—	—	—	—	28
C	3	15	18	2	—	—	—	2	16
D	473	157	630	44	4	2	5	55	575
E	68		68	1	1	7	6	15	53
Total	681	202	883	49	10	9	11	79	804

The analysis of the age groups is as follows :-

	Children under 16	16 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 64	65 +	Total
Males	25	63	70	107	112	377
Females	28	43	48	104	204	427
Total	53	106	118	211	316	804

The 804 cases known to the department can be classified as suffering from disabilities as shown in the following table:—

DISABILITY	COD- ING	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
Amputations	A/E	14	1	2	35	—	52
Arthritis & Rheumatism	F	5	4	3	151	—	163
Congenital Malformations and Deformities	G	21	3	1	15	20	60
Diseases of the Digestive and Genito-Urinary Systems of Heart or Circulatory System of the Respiratory System (other than tuberculosis)	H/L	25	2	3	224	18	272
Injuries of Head, face neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis, or trunk injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper and lower limbs and spine	Q/T	22	4	3	64	—	93
Organic, nervous, epilepsy, polio, hemiplegia, etc.	V	37	12	3	66	9	127
Mental Disorders	V/W	1	—	1	5	—	7
Tuberculosis:							
Respiratory	X	2	—	—	2	—	4
Non-Respiratory	Y	4	—	—	7	5	16
Diseases and injuries not specified above	Z	1	2	—	6	1	10
TOTALS		132	28	16	575	53	804

The number of known cases of epilepsy in the Borough was 51 consisting of 15 men, 16 women, 13 boys, 7 girls. There were also 91 known cases of cerebral palsy (including hemiplegia) 73 adults (39 males – 34 females) and 18 children (10 boys – 8 girls).

					Total
Transfer from Tipton area	M. 12	F. 8	(boys – girls 1)	Cerebral Palsy	21
1.4.67	M. 1	F. —	(boys 3 girls 2)	Epilepsy	6
Transfer from Wednesbury	M. 3	F. 4	(boys – girls 1)	Cerebral Palsy	8
area	M. 1	F. 1	(boys – girls —)	Epilepsy	2

Car badges for Disabled Persons

35 car badges were issued by the Corporation to severely handicapped persons to identify their vehicles when parked.

Holidays – 1966

The Welfare Committee arranged a week's holiday for the Physically Handicapped which took place in September at a holiday camp at Prestatyn. A total of 147 adults, 11 children together with 9 staff attended.

The numbers were made up as follows:—

113	Physically Handicapped
34	Escorts
11	Children
9	Staff

The net cost after allowing for contributions from participants was £879/13/2.

Social Activities

There is an active association—The West Bromwich Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped and also a club for the physically handicapped persons (The Fellowship of New Horizons). The latter is assisted by the Corporation with transport and the use of the Social Centre without charge.

In November, a club for physically handicapped persons commenced at Central Clinic Tipton on Wednesday evenings.

Both hold numerous activities and 40 handicapped persons and their escorts went on holiday to Weston assisted financially by the West Bromwich Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped in September. A holiday chalet has been purchased at Claracht Bay where families can be sent on holiday, and if necessary, part or all of the cost will be paid by the Association. In August an Ambulance was purchased and is used to take Handicapped people on outings and to visit friends and relatives.

Day Centres

These are principally for elderly persons housebound by physical infirmity, held at the Social Centre. At 31st December, 1966 there were 44 on the Register and the average attendance was 34.

Persons attending the Day Centre are collected from their homes at 10.0 a.m. and returned home at 4.30 pm. in the Corporation's tail lift 'buses. A mid-day meal is provided towards which they pay 1/5d per meal. The programme covers a varied field, e.g. knitting, bingo, whist, beetle drive, film shows, talks etc.

Four outings were organised during the year, and also a Christmas Party. The expenses of the outings were met by the persons attending.

Occupational Therapy

Staff

The centre had a vacancy for an Occupational Therapist at the end of the year, and during the year, a warden, 3 craft instructors and 1 occupational therapist were appointed.

Classes

During the year classes were held at the West Bromwich Social Centre and group activities included flower arrangements and art.

There were 12,709 attendances and the register has stood at an average of 80 during the year. No patients have left the centre during the year to be re-employed in the community.

Domiciliary Work

Changes in staff again reduced the extent of this activity and 268 visits were made during the year. The visiting of the elderly in the old peoples homes was also affected by staff changes and only 24 visits have been made.

Social Activities

For those attending classes, two outings were arranged during the year, one to the cinema to see "Sound of Music" and the other to Alton Towers. The annual Christmas Dinner was arranged on the 15th December, 1966 for 104 patients – the cost being defrayed by gifts and contributions.

Handicapped persons again had a stall at the Summer Fair and Horticultural Show held in Dartmouth Park. Work was again entered in competitions – there were two prize winners in the Handicraft Competition arranged by the South Staffordshire Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped at the Social Centre and two prize winners in the Evening Mail Home Makers Competition.

During the year Social Workers from Ghana visited the Centre. Visitors from Kladno (Czechoslovakia) and Norway, and the Ministry of Health, London, also visited.

Transport

During 1966 two buses with tail lifts were in service and the number of passengers transported was as follows:—

For – Occupational Therapy	6,626
Club for Blind	3,042
Day Centres	1,950
New Horizons Club for the Physically Handicapped	2,204

Activities sponsored by the Health Committee

Circle of Friendship (Club for Mentally Ill)	1,048
The Crest Training Centre	8,686
Total number of persons conveyed	<u>23,556</u>

The approximate mileage for the year was	34,890
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Events arranged by:

Welfare Dept. accounted for	13,846
New Horizons Club & West Bromwich Association for the Physically Handicapped	2,752
Use by Health Committee	18,292

One of the Special 'buses was used for the holiday for the Physically Handicapped at Prestatyn and the mileage for the week was 374 miles. The Health Committee pay the proportion of the costs involved in the journeys on their behalf.

PART VI

General Hygiene

Housing

Air and Factory Hygiene

Food Hygiene and Control

Public Cleansing and Salvage

STAFF OF THE HYGIENE AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1966

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

Stanley Cayton, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C., M.Inst. F.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

Ernest A. Siggers, L.L.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
(to 30.11.66)

Associate Chief Public Health Inspectors

Wm. Cunningham, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

W.E. Featherstone, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., D.M.A.
(to 31.10.66)

Other Senior Officers of the Department

N.H. Owen	Meat Inspection
S.W. Hogg	Housing and District
Vacancy	Food and Air Hygiene
S. Johnson	Assistant Cleansing Superintendent

Public Health Inspectors

In post (including one part-time)	15
Vacancies	1
Leave of absence (G.W. Aston to Uruguay for V.S.O. and Boy Scouts Association)	1

Pupil Public Health Inspectors

In post	6
Vacancies	—

Authorised Meat Inspectors

In post	6
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Technical Assistants

Housing	3
Air Pollution	1
Food Hygiene	2
Offices, Shops	1
Pest Control	1

Cleansing Inspectors

In post	3
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Administration

Senior Clerk	1
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Other Clerks (Including Cleansing Section)	7
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Typing services are additional and supplied from the Central Typing Pool which is operated on behalf of all departments by the Town Clerk.

Other Staff

Refuse Collectors	99
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Depot and Tip Staff	16
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Drivers	42
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Cleaners (Public Conveniences)	15
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Conveniences Supervisor	1
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Rodent Control	2
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Vacancy	1
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**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1966**

To the Chairman and Members of the

HYGIENE AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman Lady and Gentlemen,

This is the first report on the environmental services of the new West Bromwich. Many authorities can record a rapid growth in population in a particular decade but prior to 1966 it was a very rare event for the population of a township of nearly 100,000 to become 170,370 overnight. Though this is the statistical difference between the old and the new West Bromwich there were some months of adjustment afterwards. Inevitably, there was much burning of the midnight oil because the preparation period was brief but had it been twice as long there would still have been many things incomplete or uncertain on April 1st. In the event new offices for the department were occupied, unfortunately in two separate buildings, and fourteen members of a staff of fifty six moved to other appointments, albeit five of these were into other departments of the Corporation. Three groups of workmen with differing traditions, terms of employment and bonus payments were brought together into a common system so that from April 1st. and with few deviations since, a weekly collection of domestic refuse has been maintained.

Certain services had to be expanded far beyond the proportional increase in population. Particular examples were Meat Inspection, industrial and domestic smoke control, slum clearance and certain cleansing services, notably salvage recovery which was not practised in any of the added areas and the provision of a more frequent domestic collection.

One new duty not formerly under-taken by any of the authorities comprised in the new Borough was that of administering the Diseases of Animals Acts and Regulations. This responsibility was formerly undertaken by the County Police Force who asked to be relieved of what was an "inheritance" rather than a truly police function. Fortunately, the year has passed without any outbreak of animal disease to cause concern and it has been possible to identify some thirty smallholders and prepare for a possible heavy involvement which might arise because of our exceptional amount of normal slaughtering.

Itinerant Caravan Dwellers :

Nomads, gypsies or tinkers have long been a source of trouble and irritation to the general public, industrialists and ourselves. In the first case because of their untidy, careless and anti-social behaviour, in the second, because of their complete disregard for the property of others and for ourselves because of our inability to exercise control other than forcible removal from land on to the highway. With a greatly increased area of responsibility it has become much more difficult to rid ourselves of the problem, even temporarily and much time and effort has been wasted in fruitless removal often of considerable numbers of caravans and lorries to another site. We are forced to the conclusion that a more objective approach to the problem is needed. Permanent sites have been suggested equipped with necessary amenities including hard standings for vehicles and compounds for scrap collection.

A suitable location in an industrial built-up area is difficult to find which will also satisfy all shades of opinion and be convenient for the formal education of the children who appear to exist in a world completely different and separate from that enjoyed by other people's children.

Pest Control

In the chapter on General Hygiene there is recorded greatly increased activity in the destruction of pests of all kinds but particularly rats and mice. As a result of re-organisation and amalgamation it has been possible to establish a small mobile team of experienced men to provide a re-chargeable service to industry and commerce as well as a free service to deal with minor domestic infestations.

Because of our inability to recruit the full number of men required it has again been impossible to systematically destroy rats in sewers. This work has not been done for some years and is a deficiency which seriously weakens the effectiveness of our efforts at extermination. It is well known that approximately 90% of all surface infestations by rats are connected in some way with defective drainage and regularly planned poisoning of rats in sewers and drains materially reduces infestations above ground.

In the autumn of 1966 thirty scientists from sixteen countries met in Switzerland to discuss ways to fight the menace to health caused by rats and mice and the parasites that live on them.

This World Health seminar emphasised that anything which will keep down rats will serve a double purpose: it will protect mankind against disease and reduce the constant pillage of man's larder, thus increasing the amount of food available for humans. More than 20% of the crops planted by man every year is eaten or spoiled by rodents and insects even before it is harvested. Clearly the rat must be controlled and it lies entirely within our powers to do so, provided that all existing methods are used painstakingly and methodically. This will be expensive for those experts estimate that there is in the world one rat to every single human being or nearly 200,000 rats in West Bromwich.

Plastics Take-over

It is said that within twenty years the Plastics Age will take-over from the Iron Age. One of the major outlets for plastics is the building industry which is now ahead of the electrical industry in the application of this material.

The blow moulding process has produced a dust-bin which in our experience is excellent for the purpose and so far as we are concerned has superceded metal bins. The advantages are such that in time the principal alternative to plastic dustbins will be paper sacks.

Plastics are also of growing importance in the food industry because plastic sheeting can be moulded to a variety of shapes, including "coved" angles, and can incorporate colour. It is obviously a fruitless exercise to try and clean dirt trapping corners of old buildings at great expense in labour when new materials such as these are available. Far better to refurbish and refit with impervious materials purpose made for any situation and need.

The extended use of plastics for disposable containers has the advantage of light weight and convenience but poses a disposal problem because of their number, bulk and indestructability. They can be burnt in an incinerator but they do not decompose or decay in tipped refuse and in a pulveriser are fragmented with other refuse but otherwise remain unchanged.

Public Conveniences

A considerable list appears later in the report. Some buildings are worn-out, others of recent construction. There are large areas of the town for which there is no provision, though diligent search has revealed a lack of accessible and universally acceptable sites.

All existing conveniences whether new or old are the subject

of much persistent vandalism which can only be prevented by whole-time attendants working for such hours as the conveniences are open. This would be more expensive than the present system of short-time attendance for cleaning and re-stocking but it would ensure satisfactory facilities if suitable staff could be recruited.

A partial alternative would be the development of small Service Stations similar in intent to those on Motorways where there are toilet attendants and other services available for those who wish to use them. Both garages and public houses are improving their amenities in this direction and it does not seem a very long step for them to take, leaving the Local Authority with a reduced though more clearly defined responsibility.

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are due to the Transport Manager and his staff for their practical assistance in the maintenance of refuse collection vehicles.

To all the Chief Officers and Heads of Departments, a generous word of appreciation is readily given for assistance and advice whenever called for. To Chairman, Alderman A.E.Diggett, a special word of thanks for consistent support and assistance throughout a year of change and to all members of the Committee for their forbearance with my lack of knowledge of some parts of the new Authority.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

S. CAYTON

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

GENERAL HYGIENE

Description of the Area

The County Borough of West Bromwich now incorporates most of the former Boroughs of Tipton and Wednesbury with less substantial boundary adjustments with other neighbouring authorities. The total acreage is consequently 11,704 and the population 170,370.

A penny rate produces £30,200.

In relation to the Five County Boroughs formed by the West Midlands Order, 1965, West Bromwich is situated to the South East.

Meteorology

Weather Station – Wigmore

Total Rainfall – 1966 – 33.84"

Total Rainfall – 1965 – 33.18"

	<u>Inches</u>
January	1.47
February	4.08
March	1.26
April	3.29
May	2.31
June	2.68
July	3.30
August	3.88
September	1.38
October	3.98
November	2.23
December	3.98
	<u>33.84</u>

Inspections

Excluding the number of inspections carried out in the Boroughs of Tipton and Wednesbury in January – March 1966, the total number of inspections made during the year by Public Health Inspectors and Technical Assistants was:– 28,649.

The following is a summary of them:–

Housing

Inspections (Slum Clearance, Repairs, Improvement Grants, Multi-occupation and Surveys).	5749
Re-inspections	2739
Caravans	538

Food and Drugs

Food Premises Inspections	1781
Re-inspections	1172
Food Vehicles	86
Sampling	435
Food Complaints	149
Meat and Poultry Inspection	5067

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Inspections	571
Re-inspections	1063

Air Pollution and Factories

Inspections (Smoke Observations, Surveys, Complaints, Volumetric Measurement and Noise).	3411
Re-inspections	632

General Environmental Health

Nuisances, Refuse Collection and Disposal, Rodent Control, Pest and Infectious Diseases	5256
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28649

The total number of inspections was affected by frequent staff changes, the re-organisation made necessary by boundary changes and the widening and enlargement of the department's responsibilities.

Meat Inspection has always received priority in ensuring 100% inspection of carcasses. Since amalgamation, inspection duties have had to be carried out at eight slaughterhouses and one poultry packing station within the Borough. A total of 5,067 visits to meet this responsibility alone indicates the amount of work involved.

Notices Served and Properties Repaired

<u>Public Health Acts and Housing Acts</u>		
	Informal	Formal
(a) Notices requiring repairs	428	457
(b) Notices re abatement of nuisances other than above and other action	18	7
(c) Works carried out by Council in default of compliance with notices		172
(d) Total number of houses repaired		1039

Caravans

The number of caravan sites officially operating in the Borough during the year was as follows:—

<u>Privately Owned</u>	<u>No. of Caravans</u>	<u>Local Authority Owned</u>	<u>No. of Caravans</u>
3	30	1	15

Other caravans were in use on sites where building contractors were working, and generally these cause the department no concern.

Difficulty however is still experienced with itinerant van dwellers and mobile scrap metal merchants who, on numerous occasions, were the subject of complaints and often had to be forcibly removed from sites. These complaints involved the department in much valuable time and expense and it would appear that we have arrived at the stage where more adequate statutory control of itinerant caravan dwellers generally, is essential.

Places of Public Entertainment

Within the Borough there are five cinemas, the West Bromwich Albion Football Ground and thirteen public parks and open spaces where some form of public facilities are provided. In addition public bathing facilities are available at:—

Gala Baths, West Bromwich. (Two pools in Summer, one in Winter) Wednesbury Baths, Walsall Street, Wednesbury. (Two pools all the year round) Tipton Baths Queens Road, Tipton. (One pool all the year round).

Particular attention is paid to places where food and drink is sold, and the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960 are applied.

Toilet facilities on the open air recreation grounds are the responsibility of the Parks Superintendent.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses within the Borough.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Summary of Destruction of Rats and Mice, 1966

	<u>Non Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
Properties other than sewers :—		
1. Number of properties in district	60,801	4
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	1,638	Nil
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	1,539	Nil
(ii) Mice	99	Nil
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	405	Nil
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	375	Nil
(ii) Mice	30	Nil

Disinfestation

Since the creation of the New County Borough of West Bromwich in April 1966, 306 premises have been successfully disinfested, using Gammexane, Diazinon and Lindane.

The department receives many requests to exterminate a variety of pests, which has ranged from snails to foxes.

With the amalgamation, fresh problems have arisen especially in the Tipton area, where due to the damp nature of the land, many houses have infestations of cockroaches. The number of houses treated between April and December amounted to 156.

Ants still remain a problem in some areas and 33 treatments were made. There was an appreciable increase in the number of dwellings requiring treatment against bed-bugs, and 92 cases were dealt with. Treatments were also carried out against wasps, crickets, flies, lice and clover mite.

Ants	33	Lice	2
Wasps	12	Clover Mite	1
Cockroaches	156	Crickets	1
Bedbugs	92	Fumigation	3 cases
Flies	2		

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, and Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941

A total of 82 shopkeepers are registered with the Council under Part 11 of the Poisons list for the sale of such items as ammonia, arsenical substances, insecticides, fungicides and hair dyes in common use. This is probably much less than the number who should be registered.

Hairdressers and Barbers

The total number of hairdressers and barbers registered with the Council under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949 was 86 at the end of 1966. This would not include similar premises in Tipton and Wednesbury and other added areas to which this Act does not at present apply.

Pet Animals Act, 1951. The Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963, and The Riding Establishments Act, 1964.

In connection with the requirements of the above legislation 15 premises are licensed in respect of Pet Animals, two Boarding Establishments and one Riding Establishment are Licensed. Before licences are renewed inspections are made to ensure the adequacy of accommodation for animals, feeding arrangements, fire precautions and measures taken to reduce risk of any infections.

WATER SUPPLIES

Though there remains, even in this highly urbanised industrial community a few shallow wells supplying three isolated farmsteads, the Borough is supplied in part by South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and in part by City of Birmingham Water Department.

Sixteen samples taken from these two sources were examined, seven chemically and nine bacteriologically and all were satisfactory.

Typical Chemical Analyses

	South Staffordshire Waterworks Supply	Birmingham Water Dept. Supply
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.008	0.005
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.11	0.02
Chlorine in Chlorides	25.0	15.0
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.4	0.9
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27° in 4 hrs.	1.4	0.8
Total solids dried at 100° C.	280	60
pH	7.45	8.0
Free Chlorine	Nil	Nil
Radioactivity	Absent	Absent
Degree of Hardness	250 to 300	30

Although the area is well served with mains supplies many properties which though structurally suitable for improvement by the provision of modern amenities such as indoor toilet, baths and hot and cold water lack adequate pressure of water to supply these fittings. It frequently happens that service pipes are used jointly with other owners and consequently progress is retarded or prevented when one or more is unwilling to participate in schemes of improvement. The Council has agreed to provide financial assistance in such cases within the terms of the Housing Act, 1964 – Section 96.

Houses without indoor supplies

The existence of about 600 houses where there is no indoor supply of water presents an unsatisfactory picture of the environment

for this generally means that sinks are also some distance from the house, probably in an outbuilding or "Brewhouse".

This is a great inconvenience and handicap to any household but there are additional deficiencies because these houses amount to about 20% of the known unfit properties. These are being cleared as quickly as possible and it follows that as the slum clearance programme proceeds so these houses will diminish and disappear.

Swimming Pools

The sampling of water supplies is obviously an integral part of our food sampling duties though it tends to diminish as piped supplies are extended and shallow wells and other doubtful sources of supply are eliminated.

A growing responsibility, however, is the bacteriological control of the water in swimming pools. Again, the public facilities provided by the Baths and Estates Committee are closely controlled by the department responsible and random independent sampling has revealed satisfactory results.

In the case of paddling pools and small pools attached to schools now ten in number, much greater supervision is needed. This is being done by sampling and testing for the availability of free chlorine in the water and by advice regarding the manual dosing and mixing of sterilizing agent.

Sewage Disposal

West Bromwich is now served by three sewage disposal works, namely Ray Hall, Toll End, (Tipton, Moors Mill Lane), and the Wednesbury works. The latter is situated in the middle of the railway junction just outside the northern Borough boundary in Walsall, to the east of Bescot Road. These are now the responsibility of the Upper Tame Main Drainage Authority.

The Highways Department deals on our behalf with 37 domestic cesspools, 12 industrial sludge pits, and 4 abattoir settlement tanks. In addition 25 highway surface-water soakway pits are maintained.

HOUSING

New Housing Accommodation

The number of houses and flats built by the Local Authority in 1966 was :	1060
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The number of houses and flats erected by private enterprise in 1966 was :	355
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	1415
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Housing Act, 1957 – Parts 11 and 111

Slum Clearance

Despite the difficulties of re-organisation and staff changes already mentioned, progress with slum clearance was maintained and exceeded the average of the past seven years by a small margin.

A total of 41 clearance areas were represented comprising 492 houses, and 175 houses were dealt with by individual demolition or closing orders. (See table II)

Houses demolished during the year totalled 681, 1792 persons being rehoused in 577 families. This roughly balances the 667 houses formerly declared unfit in the same period.

The number of public local enquiries held was 6 in respect of 34 areas comprising 472 houses. Objections made were in respect of 96 properties claimed not unfit for habitation.

The Minister confirmed 8 orders involving 708 houses.

In amalgamating with Wednesbury and Tipton the slum clearance programme for the new Borough of West Bromwich received an additional total number of 2000 houses. These have been incorporated into a new programme which, it is hoped will be complete so far as this department is concerned, in 1970. Confirmation of Orders, acquisition of property, rehousing and demolition will probably extend into 1973.

With the end of slum clearance in sight it is possible to contemplate a change of emphasis and transfer of activity to the long neglected sphere of house maintenance. This, with the financial assistance and Grants from local and national sources should prevent the development of another slum clearance programme. Since 1955 a total of 6554 houses have been declared unfit, 5049 demolished and 12,915 persons re-housed.

TABLE 1

Summary of Action taken during the year 1966

Clearance Area	Type of Order	Date represented	No. of Houses	No. of persons to be displaced	No. of Family Units
Loveday Street South No. 3	C.P.O.	9.2.66	8	15	8
Overend Street No. 1	C.P.O.	9.2.66	7	16	7
Poplar Avenue No. 1	C.P.O.	9.2.66	28	91	29
Harwood Street No. 1	C.P.O.	9.2.66	7	22	7
Railway Street No. 1	C.O.	9.2.66	6	5	3
Guns Lane No. 3	C.O.	9.2.66	—	2	1
Hollyhedge Road No. 1	C.O.	16.5.66	8	8	3
Hollyhedge Road No. 2	C.O.	16.5.66	—	16	5
Beeches Road No. 1	C.O.	16.5.66	7	58	13
Overend Street No. 2	C.P.O.	16.5.66	16	72	18
Taylors Lane No. 1	C.O.	13.6.66	4	8	3
Aston Street No. 157	C.P.O.	13.6.66	11	39	11
Aston Street No. 158	C.P.O.	13.6.66	4	12	6
Aston Street No. 159	C.P.O.	13.6.66	20	46	16
Aston Street No. 160	C.P.O.	13.6.66	4	3	2
New Road No. 161	C.P.O.	11.7.66	9	25	9
Horseley Road No. 162	C.P.O.	11.7.66	28	86	28
Stafford Street No. 163	C.P.O.	10.10.66	28	94	28
Dudley Street (W) No. 164	C.O.	10.10.66	2	0	0
Holyhead Road No. 165	C.O.	10.10.66	10	14	6
Holyhead Road No. 166	C.P.O.	10.10.66	4	29	6
Albert Street No. 167	C.P.O.	10.10.66	82	310	88
Albert Street No. 168	C.P.O.	10.10.66	5	10	4
Dudley Port No. 169	C.P.O.	10.10.66	8	15	8
Woodgreen Road No. 170	C.P.O.	14.11.66	10	43	12
High Street, Princes End No. 171	C.P.O.	14.11.66	5	12	3
High Street, Princes End No. 172	C.P.O.	14.11.66	9	28	9
High Street, Princes End No. 173	C.O.	14.11.66	14	21	8
High Street, Princes End No. 174	C.O.	14.11.66	2	4	2
High Street, Princes End No. 175	C.P.O.	14.11.66	7	18	7
High Street, Princes End No. 176	C.P.O.	14.11.66	2	3	1

Table 1 - Continued

Clearance Area	Type of Order	Date represented	No. of Houses	No. of persons to be displaced	No. of Family Units
Toll End Road No. 177	C.P.O.	14.11.66	4	15	4
Toll End Road No. 178	C.P.O.	14.11.66	15	53	15
Horseley Heath No. 179	C.P.O.	12.12.66	7	26	7
Horseley Heath No. 180	C.P.O.	12.12.66	7	21	7
Lewis Street No. 181	C.P.O.	12.12.66	11	25	10
Mill Street No. 182	C.P.O.	12.12.66	17	49	15
Ballfields No. 183	C.P.O.	12.12.66	30	77	30
Lewis Street No. 184	C.P.O.	12.12.66	22	64	20
Tame Road No. 185	C.P.O.	12.12.66	21	90	23
Dudley Port No. 186	C.O.	12.12.66	3	6	4
			492	1542	486

At the date of amalgamation (1/4/66) 289 houses in Tipton and 67 houses in Wednesbury were in Clearance Areas awaiting the making of Orders.

TABLE 11

(Individual Unfit Houses)
1966

Houses	Demolition	Closing	Undertakings given under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1963, and Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.
15	147	27	1

TABLE 111

Demolition of Houses

The total number of houses demolished during the year was as under.:-

Houses in Clearance Areas	681
Houses subject to Demolition Orders	15
	<u>696</u>

TABLE IV

Year	Houses Recommended for Demolition as Unfit	Dwellings Built for W.B.C.	Families Rehoused	Persons Rehoused
1960	877	410	388	1258
1961	783	400	524	1534
1962	580	711	676	1996
1963	707	382	434	1377
1964	638	516	633	1962
1965	284	752	612	1767
1966	667	1060	577	1792
	4536	4231	3844	11686

Rent Act, 1957

During the year one application for a certificate of disrepair was received and a certificate was subsequently granted. One application was also received for cancellation of a certificate of disrepair and this was granted.

Standard and Discretionary Improvement Grants – Housing Acts, 1959, 1961 and 1964.

Improvement Areas :

Wood Green No. 1 Area.

A substantial Improvement Area was in preparation in Wednesbury prior to Amalgamation and this was completed and approved by the Committee. It included 572 private houses and 160 Council owned houses. Apart from the possibility of improving over 700 houses and the removal of unfit properties the area offers interesting opportunities for improved amenities by the provision of garages, rear access ways and road improvements.

A Smoke Control Order on the area in anticipation of the other improvements would enable modernisation of heating and cooking appliances to be carried out along with other works as may be necessary.

It is hoped that from the experience gained on this Area a programme will be evolved which will gradually extend over the borough.

Improvement Grants

During the year applications were received for 60 Standard Grants. and two Discretionary Grants. 56 of these Standard Grant applications were approved and 4 refused. All applications were for approval up to the 5 point standard.

This is considerably better than in 1965 when only 38 grants were approved, but is still very disappointing.

The two Discretionary Grant applications were both approved.

Amounts paid in Grants amounted to :—

	£	:	s	:	d	Average per house
1. Standard Grants	6,711		18		2	£97/5/0
2. Discretionary Grants	406		9		0	£203/0/0

Amenities provided by Standard Grants during the year were :—

(a) Fixed Baths	61
(b) Wash-hand basins	62
(c) Hot water supplies to fittings	182
(d) Water Closets	65
(e) Food Stores	49

Houses in Multiple Occupation

At the end of the year the total number of houses known to be in multiple occupation amounted to 410. It was estimated that the number needing some attention under the Housing Act, 1961 was 370 though some action to reduce overcrowding has already been taken in many cases.

Action under sections 15 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1961 has to be undertaken with care, especially if there is any likelihood that, as a result of notices served by the department, owners either sell the properties or drastically reduce the number of occupants in order to save expense and thereby make families homeless. Full consultation with owners and persons having control of properties has therefore been found beneficial, not only to give guidance on appropriate methods of improving facilities and providing means of escape in case of fire but to avoid hasty notices to quit and subsequent embarrassment and heavy expense to other departments of the corporation.

If after such consultation it is decided that a notice is necessary, this is served but in many cases, agreement can be reached for works and/or a re-arrangement of accommodations to take place upon a natural run down of the number of occupants over a period of time. Houses in multiple occupation are generally found to have a fairly high natural turnover in this respect, which facilitates such action.

Four notices under Section 15 and four directions on overcrowding were served under the Housing Act, 1961 during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution – Ironfoundries

Ironfoundries, by the very nature of the processes being carried on, are capable of polluting the atmosphere with considerable quantities of smoke, fumes, grit and dust. The Clean Air Act, 1956 and to a lesser extent the Public Health Act 1936, gave powers to limit and control this pollution. In an attempt to assess the problem and reduce pollution, the Borough has been thoroughly surveyed and all known ironfoundries inspected.

Ironfoundries numbering 46 were found to be operating, using 6 hot blast and 103 cold blast cupolas. These figures indicate that the number of foundries and cupolas is gradually diminishing while the inspections showed that new cupolas are tending to be larger and more efficient than the ones they replace.

Only 2 foundries operate hot blast cupolas, the responsibility for supervising these lies with the Alkali Inspectorate with whom we work in close contact. The larger of these foundries is being re-equipped at present and by the end of the year it will have new hot blast cupolas, fitted with highly efficient means of reducing atmospheric pollution to a minimum by the use of multi-cyclones and afterburners.

The following facts and figures relating to cold blast cupolas have been compiled from the information gained from the survey referred to :—

(a) Cupolas not in regular use and those kept as standby equipment only (including one small training cupola).	11
(b) Cupolas in regular use but on sites due to be redeveloped.	6
(c) Cupolas fitted with wet arrestors	43
(d) Cupolas without wet arrestors (other than those in (a) and (b).	43
Total –	<u>103</u>

No action is proposed with regard to those in (a) and (b) above. The provision of Wet arrestors is generally considered good practice but there is no precise definition of a wet arrestor and there are no standards of efficiency. It is hoped that this deficiency will be remedied by national agreed standards in the future.

Nevertheless, they are preferable to no arrestment at all and attention is being given to the 43 cupolas in (d) as follows:—

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) Works in progress to provide wet arrestors. | 21 |
| (2) Plans under consideration to replace cupolas with oil-fired or electrically heated melting furnaces. | 7 |

These are very costly projects involving considerable capital outlay. Most of the remaining 9 cupolas are owned by two Companies who are being pressed for improvement and a declaration of policy.

It must always be remembered however, that our powers are restricted. The foundry owner is required to use any practicable means there may be for minimising the grit and dust from any cupola, "minimise" is interpreted to mean "reduce to the absolute minimum" and "practicable" takes into consideration the financial implications and the current state of technical knowledge. The cupola, which is the largest potential source of pollution from an ironfoundry, provides a cheap method of melting iron and the provision of grit and dust arresting equipment or the burning off of smoke, simply adds to cost without increasing production. The financial implications are important, for example, the provision of a wet arrestor to a very small cupola, together with the necessary ancillary equipment, costs more than £1,000. In another case, the hire of mechanical plant to lift wet arrestors on to two large cupolas costs £900.

In 1964 the Minister of Housing and Local Government set up a Working Party to study emissions from iron foundries and it is hoped that their report will be published shortly. We need more information about the working and efficiencies of different grit and dust arresting equipment. At present, for instance, it is virtually impossible to obtain collection efficiency figures for the type of wet arrestor which has become widely accepted as suitable means of arresting grit and dust from cold blast cupolas. It is reported that draft Regulations governing the measurement of

grit and dust, have been prepared by the Ministry and although they will only apply to the largest cupolas they should, when operative, add considerably to our powers of control.

Fumes, grit and dust from the core drying, knock-out, fettling and shot blasting processes at iron foundries may also give rise to considerable nuisance. The Factory Inspector is responsible for ensuring satisfactory working conditions within the foundry, but on occasions grit and dust may be discharged to the atmosphere in such a position or in such quantities as to cause a nuisance to the general public.

It is not always easy to be certain, without making a number of visits, that existing methods of filtration and discharge are satisfactory under all working conditions. Our survey however, indicates that in 28 foundries the methods were reasonably satisfactory while in the remaining 18 improvements could be made.

As a consequence of concentrating industry into larger units, the number of cupolas is slowly declining. Pressure for higher standards in foundry atmospheres and in the operation of cupolas in order to minimise the emission of fume, grit and dust, is likely to accelerate this tendency. It is already apparent that gas cleansing equipment is being designed which will be more effective on the cold blast cupola than the wet arrestor as we now know it, but also more costly to install and operate. The state of our technical knowledge is advancing continually and although progress is being made we are handicapped by the lack of national definitions and standards.

New Furnaces

In accordance with Section 3, Clean Air Act, 1956, 22 notifications of intention to install new furnaces were received and 6 requests for prior approval. The Corporation are obviously not being informed of all new furnaces being installed and towards the end of the year firms known to install boilers or furnaces within West Bromwich were circularised and their attention drawn to the requirements of Section 3. At the same time the opportunity was taken to show the advantage of requesting prior approval in addition to the statutory duty of notification and it is hoped that much more work under this Section will be possible next year.

The notifications and applications received were in respect of the following plant :—

- 2 No. Cupolas (Cold Blast)
- 1 No. Gas-fired boiler
- 1 No. Solid fuel boiler
- 1 No. Oil-fired furnace
- 28 No. Oil-fired boilers

Contraventions

The number of contraventions under the Clean Air Act, 1956 found during the year was 18. These were concerned mainly with the emission of dark smoke from chimneys.

Domestic Smoke Control

With the amalgamation with the Boroughs of Tipton and Wednesbury we had a total of 10,396 dwellings included in 20 smoke control areas at 31st December, 1966. A Smoke Control Order covering 363 dwellings which was confirmed by the Minister does not become operative until 1967. Preparatory work was also commenced towards a plan for accelerating the programme of smoke control in the future.

The following table shows details of the Borough's smoke control areas as at 31st December, 1966 :—

Area		Acreage	Description	Properties Dwellings Other		Position at 31.12.66
	1	25	Town Centre	191	58	1.11.58
	2	37	New L.A. Estate	325	4	1.10.59
	3	8	New Private Estate	56	—	1.10.59
	4	14	New and existing Private Estate	85	1	1.11.59
	5	37	Town Centre Extension	253	74	1.7.61
	5a		Dwellings previously exempted	3	—	1.10.63
	6	50	Town Centre Extension	647	30	1.7.61
	7	90	New Private and existing mixed Estate	562	4	1.7.62
	8	126	Town Centre Extension	1625	49	1.7.63
	9	5	New L.A. Estate	54	1	1.7.62
	10	860	Mainly Residential	2246	51	1.7.64
	11	40	Redevelopment Area	43	11	1.9.63
	12	83	New L.A. Estate	916	—	1.8.64
	13	57	New Private Estate	372	—	1.8.64
	14	76	Residential Area	434	24	1.9.65
	15	11	Residential Area	100	—	1.7.66
Tipton	1		Residential Area	863*	20	1.10.64
Aldridge	11	10	Residential Area	105	—	1.7.63
Aldridge	20	2.6	Residential Area	27	—	1.6.66
Wednesbury	1		Residential Area	1275	—	1961
Wednesbury	2		Residential Area			1963

* — 165 of these dwellings now come within the County Borough of Dudley.

In the calculation of smoke control costs consideration now has to be given to the position following the Ministry of Housing and Local Government circular of 17th August, 1966, whereby for existing improved open fires the option of replacement, or retention of the appliance with an adaptation only is on the owner or occupier as the case may be. This had no affect on work in 1966, but it is envisaged that where householders or tenants can substitute gas, electric or more expensive and efficient solid fuel heaters in place of the modern open fire they will readily do so.

Clean Air Council

The purpose of the West Bromwich Clean Air Council formed in 1957 is to bring together people having a common interest in clean air and who can contribute materially to this cause. The Council have always been well represented but it has been felt that more interest ought to be forthcoming from industry. In view of this and the enlargement of West Bromwich it is hoped to secure a wider membership.

The Council met on four occasions during the year, the first three at the Victoria Works Social Club and the remaining one at the Service Centre, 296, 298 High Street, West Bromwich by kind permission of J. Brockhouse and Company Limited and the Midlands Electricity Board respectively.

The first meeting was held on February 28th, when Mr. R.H. Raybould of the West Midlands Gas Board spoke on "Developments in the Gas Industry". He spoke of the older methods of making gas from coal, of the more modern methods involving close co-operation with the petro-chemical industry and finally on natural gas. He concluded with a film on natural gas.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 20th June, with the election of the following officers:—

Mr. A. Dudley (George Salter & Co.Ltd.,)	— Chairman
Alderman, A.E. Diggett	— Vice Chairman
Mr.S. Cayton (Chief Public Health Insp.)	— Press Secretary.
Mr. G.W. Aston	— Honorary Secretary

Following the election of officers the Chief Public Health Inspector gave a report entitled "Control of Air Pollution Progress in West Bromwich" in which he outlined current achievements in domestic smoke control and plans for making the new enlarged

West Bromwich smoke controlled. He also spoke of the work being done in the industrial field particularly with reference to emissions from cupolas. Dr. R.G. Temple of the National Coal Board then addressed the meeting and with the aid of slides and films outlined recent developments in the solid fuel industry and gave details of three relatively new fuels, Multi-Heat, Room-Heat and Home-Fire, all developed by the National Coal Board from their Research Centre at Stoke Crchard.

The third meeting was held on September 12th, when Mr. S.C. Dinenage of the Midlands Electricity Board spoke on "Electricity and Clean Air". He traced the history of air pollution and finally with the aid of films and slides outlined the part played by electricity in helping to achieve cleaner air.

At the final meeting on December 5th, the Chairman, Mr. Dudley spoke of the visit made by Mr. McKeown and himself as delegates of the Council to the International Clean Air Conference and thanked the Council for the opportunity of attending afforded to them. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to air pollution from road vehicles and was addressed by two speakers.

Mr. F.B. Kelsall of the West Bromwich Transport Department spoke on "The use of the Internal Combustion Engine and Electric Traction in Public Transport Undertakings". He dealt with the diesel engine, the reasons for its widespread use and the problems associated with exhaust emissions. In dealing with electric traction he outlined the difficulties which had relegated to a minor role a form of transport which from an air pollution view point had much to commend it.

Mr. R.A.C. Fosberry of the Motor Industries Research Association then spoke on "Air Pollution from Road Vehicles" in which he outlined the undesirable constituents present in petroleum exhausts and the research undertaken to achieve satisfactory methods of reducing these emissions. In comparing the problem with that of the United States where legislation was to be introduced on this subject he emphasised that the United Kingdom had some-way to go before a similar situation arose.

In October the Honorary Secretary, Mr. G.W. Aston left to spend 12 months in Uruguay with the Voluntary Overseas Service and his work was undertaken by Mr. D.G. Hunt.

Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution

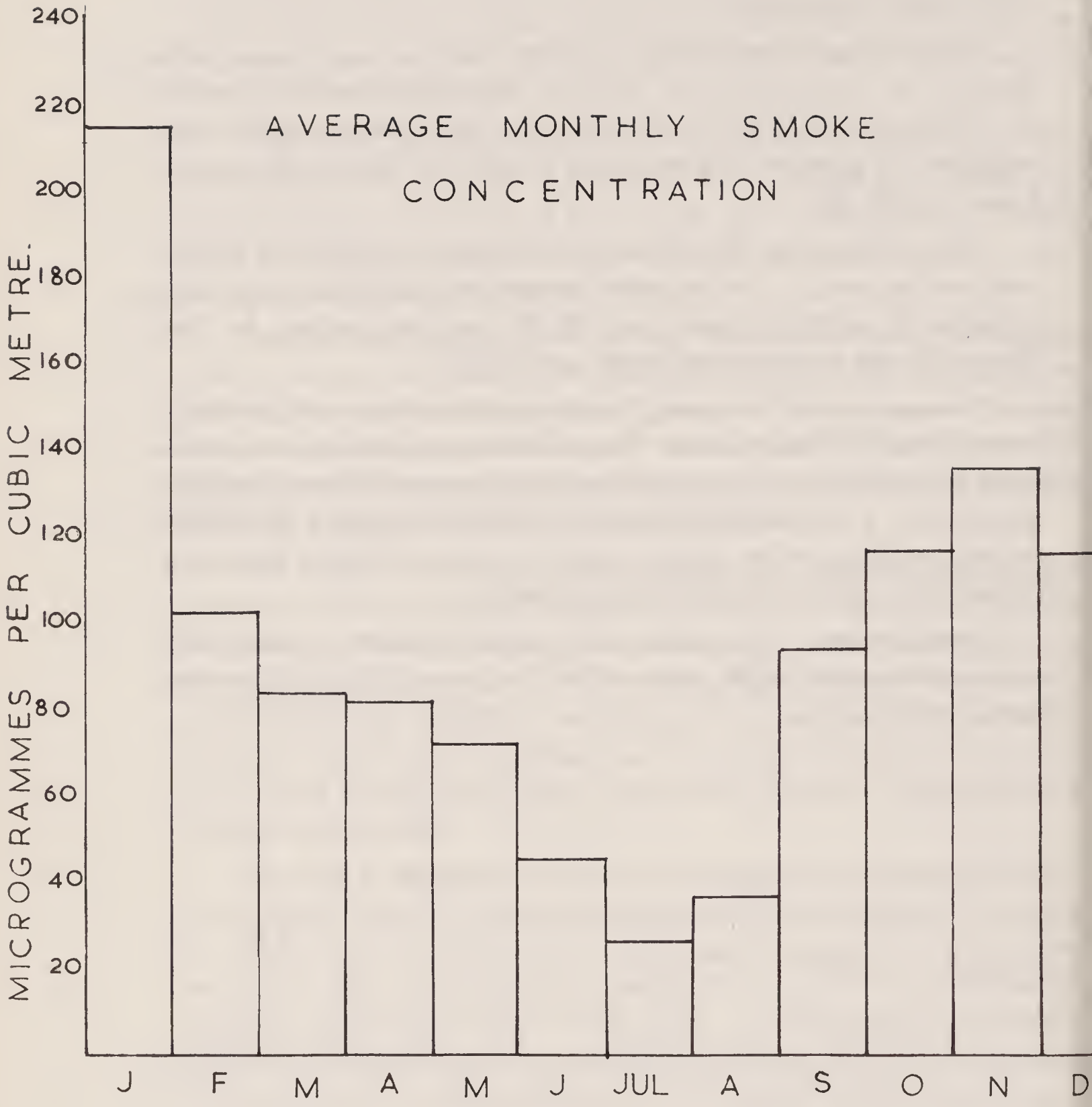
It is of great value to the practical aspects of the control of air pollution to be able to equate action taken with measurements which show improvement.

Comparison of the figures for West Bromwich with those of the Ministry of Technology for England and Wales outside London, for the period 1950–1965 inclusive show that whereas the National percentage decrease in smoke was 33.5%, for West Bromwich the figure was 56.2%.

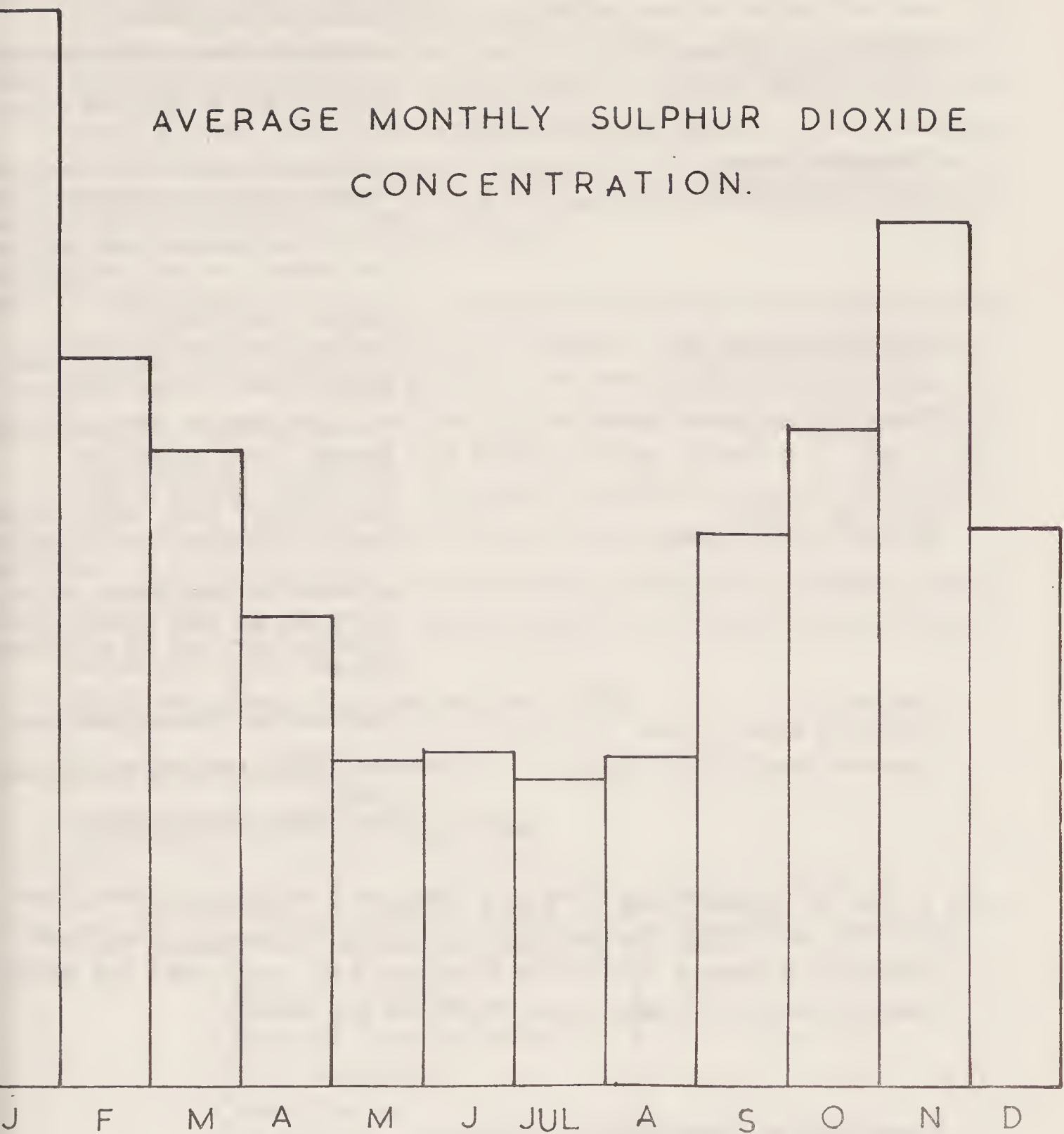
The influence of West Bromwich industry on pollution is however emphasised by the fact that whereas the National percentage decrease of sulphur-dioxide was 38.2% over this period, for West Bromwich, the comparative figure was 22.1% .

However, with the very much increased use of oil fuels, particularly by industry over this period it is pleasing to see that there is any reduction in the ground level concentration of sulphur-dioxide and a substantial decrease of 22.1% indicates the benefit derived amongst other things from the use of higher chimneys, more refined fuels and advanced equipment.

Measurements of smoke and sulphur-dioxide concentrates were maintained at eight sites within the Borough, their disposition being as follows :—



AVERAGE MONTHLY SULPHUR DIOXIDE
CONCENTRATION.



Offices, Lombard Street West	Commercial area or one with predominantly central heating. Smoke Control Area.
Delta Die Castings, Greet's Green Road.	Industrial area interspersed with domestic premises of high density and in multiple occupation.
Greenside House, Yew Tree Estate.	Residential area with medium density housing surrounded by or interspersed with areas with low potential air pollution output, or any residential area with low density housing. Smoke Control Area.
Central Police Station.	Residential. High density interspersed with some industry.
Chest Clinic, Heath Lane.	Classification as for Greenside House. Not Smoke Control Area.
Municipal Baths, Queens Road, Tipton.	Residential area with high density housing or medium density housing in multiple occupation surrounded by or interspersed with other areas with low potential air pollution output.
Cemetery, Alexandre Road, Tipton.	Unclassified Site or mixed area.
Highfield Road School, Tipton.	Classification as for Greenside House. Not Smoke Control Area.

I wish to record my thanks to those who once again throughout the year gave their co-operation in making measuring sites available and to Messrs. Delta Die Castings Ltd., who make the daily readings at their Greet's Green Works on our behalf.

Recordings of Atmospheric Pollution

Readings were continued throughout the year at eight recording sites, as previously. The average monthly pollution figures for the whole Borough are shown in the form of two graphs, smoke concentrations and concentrations of sulphur dioxide.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

The department was perhaps fortunate in only receiving ten complaints of any substance concerning noise during the year. In each case complaints arose due to conditions of environment rather than any individual's misdemeanour. In areas where residential housing ends, and industrial development begins it is sometimes difficult to strike a balance between what is acceptable considering the nature of the area, and what criterion should be used to determine the degree of nuisance if any.

Assistance is given in this respect by the use of noise level meters and the application of standards and recommendations as laid down in the Wilson Report, However, nuisance from noise can be more a question of reaction of the individual rather than objective assessment and in the end before taking action it is left to the Public Health Inspector to consider whether he, as an individual, in the circumstances could tolerate the noise.

All the complaints received were resolved by informal action and as yet we have not had to resort to any legal proceedings in our duties under the Act.

Alkali etc., Works Regulations Act, 1906

Clean Air Act, 1956, Section 17

The Alkali etc., Works Order 1966.

The number and type of works in the Borough for which the Alkali Inspectorate is responsible is as follows :—

Electricity Works	1
Chemical Manufacturers	2
Aluminium Works	6
Copper Works	5
Gas and Coke Works	2
Tar Works	1
Iron and Steel Works	8
Aldehyde Works	1
	<u>26</u>

The above premises have to be registered annually by the inspectorate and are subject to routine inspection and measurement of gaseous effluents.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Factories, Factories (no mechanical power) and workrooms.

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health, made by members of the Department.

	No. on Register	No. on Inspections	No. of written notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	30	1	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	830	206	44	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	13	—	—	—
	873	207	44	—

Cases in which defects were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)				
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	43	40	—	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—
	44	41	—	2

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

1. Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of the year	Number of registered premises receiving general inspection during the year
Offices	37	310	80
Retail Shops	76	840	274
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	5	44	16
Catering establishments open to the public	1	237	102
Fuel Storage Depots	—	8	1
TOTAL	119	1439	473

2. Total Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered premises under the Act : 1619

3. Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions Found		Section	Number of Contraventions Found	
4	Cleanliness	102	13	Sitting Facilities	28
5	Overcrowding	3	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	Nil
6	Temperature	251	15	Eating Facilities	1
7	Ventilation	21	16	Floors, Passages & Stairs	160
8	Lighting	135	17	Fencing Exposed Parts Machinery	14
9	Sanitary Conveniences	200	18	Protection for Young Persons	Nil
10	Washing Facilities	96	19	Training/Dangerous Machinery	Nil
11	Supply of Drinking Water	4	23	Prohibition of Heavy Work	Nil
12	Clothing Accommodation	28	24	First Aid-General	235
				TOTAL	1278

As in the previous year a high incidence of contraventions was found in premises inspected. This is perhaps inevitable considering that many premises now being inspected had not prior to the introduction of the Act been subject to such wide ranging requirements. On the other hand there is little doubt that too few employers have familiarised themselves with its requirements or bothered to assess the needs of their particular premises.

Work to bring the premises up to the required standard is progressing at a steady rate and to date informal action has been sufficient to obtain the co-operation of employers or owners concerned without the necessity to resort to legal proceedings.

The inspection of premises under the Act has been undertaken on an area basis. An area being defined and a survey of all the premises undertaken. The premises within the area are then checked against the registration forms received and any not registered are visited. Registration then is complete before the inspections are commenced.

This method is inevitably slower than merely inspecting those premises which have been registered but does have the advantage that on completion the Borough will have been covered entirely except for recent changes and it should not be necessary to retrace steps already taken, to discover those premises not registered. Added to this, exemption when claimed can be verified and noted. This procedure will also deter an employer occupying substandard premises from attempting to buy time by failing to register.

Notification of Accidents

An employer is required to notify the Local Authority of an accident on registered premises which involves the death of a person or disability which prevents normal work for three days or more.

Reported Accidents

Work Place	Number Reported		Total No Investigated	Action Recommended			
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Pros-ecution	Formal Warning	Informal Warning	No Action
Offices		1	Nil				
Retail Shops		8	Nil				
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses		2	Nil				
Catering Establishments open to the Public, Canteens		12	2				2
Fuel Storage Premises							
TOTAL		23	2				2

Accidents were only investigated where from the nature of the report it appeared possible that they may have been caused by some deficiency or infringement of the Act. As indicated from the number investigated the majority were trivial in nature.

Analysis of Reported Accidents

	Offices	Retail Shops	Whole-sale Ware-houses	Catering Establish-ments open to public canteens	Fuel Storage Depots
Machinery					
Transport		1	2		
Fall of persons	1	2		5	
Stepping on or striking against object or person		2			
Handling goods					
Struck by Falling object					
Fires & explosions					
Electricity					
Use of hand Tools		3			
Not otherwise specified				3	

FOOD HYGIENE AND CONTROL

Food Hygiene

The total number of inspections and visits to food premises made during the year was 2953 and in addition 235 inspections of food vehicles, stalls etc., were made.

The list of food premises and food hawkers was being amended at the end of the year in view of the additional premises to be included since amalgamation.

Summary of Food Premises

PREMISES	TOTAL NO.
Grocers	209
Greengrocers	71
Greengrocers / Grocers	222
Fishmongers	16
Fish Friers	77
Butchers	137
Sugar Confectioners	110
Sugar Confectioners Manufacturers	2
Flour Confectioners	46
Bakehouses	13
Public Houses	304
Off Licenses	55
Licensed Clubs	94
Cafes, Restaurants etc.	122
Multiple Stores	17
Mineral Water Manufacturers	4
Pickle Manufacturers	2
Dairies	1
Ice Cream Manufacturers	3
School Kitchens	50
Slaughterhouses	8
Brewers & Bottlers	1

Food Control

Routine sampling of a variety of foods was carried out during the year and a total of 96 such samples were taken.

Samples are taken for two reasons, firstly to ensure that food when sold is fit for human consumption and secondly that the prescribed or recommended standards relating to composition and marking are being observed. Misleading claims may be made for a particular commodity or it may contain a substance which the regulations prohibit in that particular food.

Samples may be taken by one of two methods. The sample may be a formal one whereby the inspector has to follow a fixed legal procedure or it may be informal. Of the 96 samples procured 29 were formal and the remainder were informal.

The results of the analysis of these samples are given below.

	Samples Analysed	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1st Quarter	32	30	2
2nd Quarter	31	24	7
3rd Quarter	14	10	4
4th Quarter	19	19	—
TOTAL	96	83	13

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 13.54% compared with 15.26% in 1965. The following table summarises the adulterated or unsatisfactory samples of food enumerated above:—

Sample No.	Food	Contravention	Remarks
201	Pork Sausage	Slightly low in meat content – 61%	The attention of the firm was drawn to the contravention and appropriate measures were subsequently taken.
202	Tomato Sausage	Contained 120 p.p.m. sulphur dioxide – Not declared	-ditto-
204	Pork Sausage	Contained sulphur dioxide – Not declared	-ditto-
207	Instant Skimmed Milk	Claim. "non-fattening" unjustified	-ditto-
212	Pork Sausage	Contained Sulphur dioxide – Not declared	-ditto-
220	Gin 70 °	Lower percentage of Proof spirit	-ditto-
222	Cream Bun	Layer consisted of imitation cream	-ditto-
227	Gin 70 °	Lower percentage of Proof spirit	-ditto-
228	Gin 70 °	Lower percentage of Proof spirit	-ditto-
236	Gin 70 °	-ditto-	-ditto-
237	Gin 70 °	-ditto-	-ditto-
238	Gin 70 °	-ditto-	-ditto-
246	Gin 70 °	-ditto-	-ditto-

In connection with the unsatisfactory samples of Gin, representatives of the firm in Scotland came to discuss the results with the Public Analyst and the firm accepted that the different tests carried out by themselves and our Analyst could possibly have given rise to this small error but they agreed to adopt more stringent quality control measures.

In addition to samples submitted to the Public Analyst 27 samples of a variety of meat products were subjected to bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birmingham. In 17 of the samples no pathogenic organisms were isolated. Of the remaining ten, B. Coli Type was isolated in 6 samples, 2 of which also contained faecal streptococci and one other Group, A haemolytic streptococci. B. Coli of an irregular type, faecal streptococci, Salmonella Dublin, and a surface mould

growth were found in the other four samples respectively. These findings are not surprising since some of the organisms are naturally present in the alimentary tract of healthy food animals creating disease only when they invade surrounding tissues. They do however serve to indicate contamination which might be prevented and as such are worth following up.

On the other hand some are known pathogens and the need for careful treatment of meat products in hygienic conditions and the wisdom of the statutory temperature requirements for certain foods including meat products in catering operations is clearly demonstrated.

207 swabs were taken of drinking glasses in 69 public houses, 12 swabs were taken of drinking glasses in 4 licensed clubs, 33 swabs of utensils in 11 cafes, 12 swabs of utensils in 4 works canteens and 5 bottle rinsings in a dairy. In all cases they were followed up until we were satisfied that a satisfactory standard had been reached.

Bacteriological Swabs

Type of Premises	Public Houses	Licensed Clubs	Cafes	Works Canteens	Dairy
No. of satisfactory results i.e., less than 100 colonies per utensil	44	3	9	4	1
No. of unsatisfactory results i.e., more than 100 colonies per utensil	25	1	2	—	—
Total No. of Premises	69	4	11	4	1

Ice Cream

The department received eight applications for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream during the year. There are now 208 premises registered for this purpose including three manufacturers.

During the year 10 samples of ice cream were submitted for the prescribed bacteriological examination, nine were grade One (higher level) and one Grade Two.

Milk

There are 267 dealers licensed in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1963/65 and one dairyman licensed as a Dealer/Steriliser for the production of sterilised milk. Fifteen samples taken during the year satisfied the prescribed statutory tests.

Food Complaints

39 complaints concerning the sale of food were made to the department all of which were fully investigated. On three occasions legal proceedings for a contravention of Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 were taken. One of the cases involved a foreign body in the foodstuff and in the other two cases food was sold in a mouldy condition. Costs and fines totalling £65/17/6d. were imposed.

Poultry Slaughtering

Apart from inspection duties at eight slaughterhouses there is now within the Borough a Poultry Slaughtering Establishment where some 260,000 poultry were killed during the year. These were also subject to inspection in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 22/61.

The number of inspections involved was 340 and the type of birds inspected included hens, capons, broilers, ducks and turkeys. As a result of these inspections 2 tons 5 cwt of poultry were rejected as being unfit for human consumption during the year.

Meat Inspection

In 1965 it was reported that the slaughtering figures for 1966 relating to the increased Borough would be very much higher than previously. In fact the total number of animals slaughtered and inspected was 375,500 which represents an increase of 44% over the previous year. A meat inspection service was fully maintained and 100% inspection of all carcasses and offal was achieved in addition to supervision of slaughterhouse hygiene and the operation of new duties under the Diseases of Animals Acts and Regulations.

Carcases Inspected and Surrendered

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	23,757	476	3,461	110,546	237,209
Number inspected	23,757	476	3,461	110,546	237,209
ALL DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses surrendered	7	8	56	92	437
Carcasses of which some part or organ was surrendered	10,837	236	62	15,563	65,288
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	45.65	51.26	3.41	14.16	27.71
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses surrendered	—	—	—	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was surrendered	18	—	—	—	4080
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.076	—	—	—	1.72

Percentage of Food Animals with Tuberculosis

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Cattle (excluding Cows)	0.13	0.02	—	.009	.005	.076
Cows	—	0.16	0.13	—	—	—
Calves	—	—	—	—	.030	—
Pigs	1.66	1.35	0.69	0.84	1.55	1.72

Summary of Carcasses Inspected

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Cattle (excluding Cows)	7,875	13,018	18,326	21,120	19,215	23,757
Cows	363	619	770	668	165	476
Calves	1,819	2,946	2,580	2,966	3,273	3,461
Sheep	56,037	65,572	83,443	93,155	87,882	110,546
Pigs	76,446	96,365	102,803	119,698	149,638	237,209
TOTALS	142,522	178,520	207,922	237,607	260,173	375,449

Total weight surrendered

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>Qrs</u>	<u>Lbs</u>
1966 total	195	1	3	12
1965	125	9	—	14
1964	87	5	2	19
1963	78	16	3	21
1962	58	5	2	24
1961	29	2	3	18

Analysis of foods examined in premises other than slaughter-houses, and found to be unfit for human consumption.

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>Qrs</u>	<u>Lbs</u>
Meat at wholesale premises		4	—	—
Meat at retail shops		2	1	8
Cooked meat and meat products		4	1	10
Canned Meats	1	12	0	0
Fish			2	12
Fruit and vegetables	1	8	1	12
Other foods	1	11	1	11
	5	2	3	25
<hr/>				
Total weight surrendered in 1965	5	7	1	4

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food

All meat condemned by the food inspectors is stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation, at the source, and disposed of by the individual butchers concerned to approved collectors.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

There were 48 slaughtermen licensed by the Council under the provisions of the above Act, all of whom are actively engaged in slaughtering in one or other of the registered slaughterhouses in the Borough.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

More People – More Refuse

The natural growth of population is only partially responsible for the progressive increase in the daily weight and volume of refuse to be collected and disposed of. Almost everything we buy, particularly food and clothing is individually wrapped or packaged. In the case of foodstuffs, protection from handling and air-borne contamination is welcome. Pre-packing is an essential preliminary to self-service and commercially advantageous as an aid to marketing. Some of the economics which result from self-service however, are reflected in increased refuse collection and disposal costs to the Local Authority. This is one reason for a more up-to-date definition of "trade refuse" and re-assessment of charges.

Another, and more significant factor, is the change from solid fuel to gas and electricity for domestic heating. This is very beneficial to the Clean Air programme and every conversion from solid fuel either as the expression of an individuals preference or as the result of a formal Smoke Control Order, relieves the public purse, but again, the reduction in the number of open fires means additional refuse to be disposed of, centrally.

These changes are desirable and will advance more rapidly in the next decade than in the past and therefore consideration should be given now to the likely consequences.

The new circumstances have already visibly changed the composition of refuse in addition to increasing its volume and refuse from all-electric multi-storey flats are an extreme example. In those cases the refuse is almost entirely paper.

If the refuse of the future is going to be predominantly paper it follows that we must be equipped to deal with it. Paper has a value and if kept clean can be readily sold. In 1966 income from this source was nearly £26,000 from nearly 2,800 tons. This is not a high rate of recovery nor a typical year, because of re-organisation, but it is probably true to say that an equal or greater quantity has been disposed of by tipping along with other refuse. It is physically impossible to recover all waste paper, so inevitably, however good the salvage system the disposal arrangements must take account of a high proportion of waste paper.

More Refuse – More Disposal

The disposal of refuse is almost universally by controlled tipping into low-lying land, holes in the ground, quarries, disused railway cuttings and the beds of canals which have been previously drained of water. The absence of ash and cinder and the predominance of paper makes control very difficult especially where there is also scarcity of suitable covering material and workmen to apply it. Consequently, control is not so complete nor so adequate as formerly and better hygienic standards are required.

Plans and Proposals

West Bromwich is fortunate in possessing a number of sites suitable for refuse disposal which will be sufficient for a number of years but which would last longer and be of better appearance during the tipping period if the refuse were first pulverised. This process reduces all refuse to a pre-determined size, texture and colour. It decomposes more rapidly than untreated refuse and therefore consolidates more quickly and so accelerates land reclamation.

Serious thought is being given to the provision of a drum-type pulveriser on one of the larger disposal sites at Sheepwash lane to operate in conjunction with the existing paper sorting and baling plant transferred there from the Black Lake Depot.

Land reclamation : Long - term Bonus

Examples of areas of dereliction, swamps, worked-out quarries and other declivities or blemishes which have been transformed by controlled filling with refuse are many and varied. There is even more scope for this progressive recovery of land using pulverised refuse because it can be used in any situation regardless of depth of fill required or existing development either domestic, commercial or industrial.

The Charlemont Farm Estate is one such example in West Bromwich and there is ample scope for much more work of this kind if pulverised refuse is available for the purpose.

Provision of Dustbins

This is the third year of all-plastic bins and 10,700 are now in regular use. There seems no reason why they should not continue to give completely satisfactory service. An insignificant

number have been so damaged by hot ashes as to be useless and the fact that these bins will not resist heat is now well known and understood. In fact this is one of the principal reasons for expecting a longer "life" than for metal bins. It is common practice, though wrong, to "incinerate" in the metal bins so destroying the galvanising thus exposing the steel which rusts and disintegrates in a very short time. This practice is, of course impossible in the case of plastic bins.

So far as the refuse collectors are concerned the increasing number of lightweight plastic bins is accelerating the rate of collection and should result in increased productivity.

Disposal Site – Plant

- 1 – Caravan/Mess Hut – placed in service November, 1959.
- 1 – 955 Traxcavator – placed in service April, 1962 (Marsh Lane)
- 1 – 955 Traxcavator – placed in service September, 1963 (Newtown)

These are 100 h.p. machines and together they handle a large volume and weight of miscellaneous waste exceeding 5,000 tons weekly. Each driver has one assistant and together they are responsible for each tip.

- 1 – Chaseside Loadmaster 700
- 1 – Weatherill 12 H Loading Shovel

Public Conveniences

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Accommodation Provided</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Library, High Street West Bromwich.	3 w.c.'s	— w.c.'s
Dartmouth Square	3 "	5 "
All Saints	3 "	4 "
Hill Top	3 "	4 "
Stone Cross	3 "	4 "
Carters Green	4 "	6 "
Birmingham Road	4 "	6 "
Gregory Street	2 "	1 "
Lower High Street, Wednesbury	4 "	4 "
Shambles "	3 "	3 "
Great Bridge, Tipton	3 "	2 "
Victoria Park "	3 "	3 "
Coronation Gardens, Tipton	2 "	3 "
Cemetery "	2 "	2 "
Doughty Arms Inn "	1 "	— "
Princes End "	1 "	1 "

Recruitment of Labour

The labour turnover during the year was similar to that experienced in previous years. Out of 177 men employed on 1st April, 1966 as drivers, refuse collectors and salvage labourers, there were still 152 employed on 31st December, 1966.

The following tables shows the number of men employed on December 31st and their age groups.

Age Groups	18-21	10
	22-30	32
	31-40	33
	41-50	42
	51-60	28
	61-65	7
		<hr/>
		152
		<hr/>

MONTHLY STATISTICS OF TIME DUE TO SICKNESS, ACCIDENTS AND CASUAL ABSENCE - 1966

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Days lost												
(a) Sickness/Accident	233	239	179	226	214	205	149	147	240	302	234	125
(b) Casual Absence	155	99	109	164	84	93	76	69	106	69	66	44
Average Strength of Section *	106	106	108	181	180	176	177	175	174	176	176	175
Number of working days in month	21	20	23	19	21	22	21	22	22	21	22	20
Possible number of man /days for month	2226	2120	2484	3439	3780	3872	3717	3850	3828	3696	3872	3500
Percentage Loss												
(a) Sickness	11.09	11.95	7.78	11.89	10.19	9.31	7.09	6.68	10.90	14.38	10.63	6.25
(b) Casual Absence	7.38	4.95	4.73	8.63	4.00	4.24	3.61	3.13	4.81	3.28	3.00	2.20
Percentage Total Loss	18.47	16.90	12.81	20.52	14.19	13.55	10.70	9.81	15.71	17.66	13.63	8.45
* Includes cleaners for Public Conveniences and Two Rodent Operatives												

Average Monthly Loss %	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
(a) Sickness and Accidents	6.29%	8.12%	7.26%	8.96%	9.81%
(b) Casual Absence	2.59%	2.74%	3.39%	3.54%	4.46%

House Refuse Collection and Disposal – Operational Statistics

Area	11,704 acres
Population	170,370
Total number of premises from which refuse was collected	52,000
Weight per 1,000 population per day ,	16.0 cwts
Total tonnage (est.)	39,000
Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	100%
Average haul, single journey to final disposal point	2.5 miles
Total refuse disposed of (estimated)	310,000 tons
Methods of disposal – controlled tipping	100%

Recovery of Waste and Dormant Materials

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and the income received is as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	Lbs	£	s	d
Waste paper (various grades)	2,774	1	3	—	25,974	6	5
Baled Ferrous Scrap	227	6	1	—	1,566	12	5
Rags	11	9	2	—	167	16	6
Cardboard Boxes					13	12	0
	3,012	17	2	—	27,722	7	4

The total salvage collected and income received from 1956 to 1966 was as under:—

	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	Lbs	£	s	d
1956	838	7	0	26	7,154	8	—
1957	988	16	3	7	8,414	5	2
1958	1,224	5	3	22	10,455	19	10
1959	1,423	15	2	2	11,638	14	5
1960	1,621	18	1	8	13,680	0	10
1961	1,501	12	3	3	12,958	13	8
1962	1,414	11	2	5	11,538	11	8
1963	1,171	2	3	0	9,581	16	10
1964	1,616	8	3	19	13,480	12	10
1965	2,092	8	0	3	19,178	5	4
1966	3,012	17	2	0	27,722	7	4
	16,906	5	1	11	145,803	15	11

Public Cleansing Costings

The national figures of cleansing costs published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government reveal the following information.

	1958/ 59	1959/ 60	1960/ 61	1961/ 62	1962/ 63	1963/ 64	1964/ 65
Average Cost per 1000 premises in County Boroughs for refuse collection and disposal	2,193	2,209	2,352	2,569	2,740	2,871	2,960
Average Cost per 1,000 premises in County Boroughs with population 50-100,000 for refuse collection and disposal	2,140	2,174	2,281	2,485	2,660	2,806	2,908
Average Cost per 1,000 premises for West Bromwich for refuse collection and disposal	2,138	2,176	2,166	2,456	2,435	2,616	2,619

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